



THE PRESIDENT promises, promises.

15 dead in MILF attacks in Mindanao

Story on PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, May 2, 2003 *** 80 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 143

P15

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US EMBASSY/A19

SARS kills Filipino caregiver in S'pore

Doc, nurse in RITM are SARS suspects

By Norman Bordadora, Blanche Rivera, and Armand Nocom

A MALE caregiver in Singapore became the third overseas Filipino worker to die of SARS-related causes. The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday confirmed that the 24-year-old nurse identified only by the initials JP died in a Singapore hospital on Wednesday night.

JP is the first OFW to die of SARS in Singapore. A domestic helper in Hong Kong, Adela Dalingay, and a returning nursing aide from Canada, Adela Catalan, were the first OFW fatalities.

"It was sad because his father arrived in the Singapore hospital to be with the caregiver. The father was a few minutes late and he was already dead when his father got to see him," said Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, DFA spokesperson.

At the Regional Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa City, the country's main SARS treatment facility, a female doctor and a male nurse have been classified by health officials as suspected SARS cases. The top World Health Organization off-

SARS/A7



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CONTRARY/A20

China's biggest holiday eerily quiet

BEIJING—It was eerily quiet on what traditionally has been one of China's biggest holidays.

The empty streets, deserted train stations and mounting business closures reinforced what most people already knew: China has yet to control the contagion of the deadly SARS disease.

More than 11,000 people were under enforced quarantine in the Chinese capital on Thursday and millions more took heed of the government's advice to stay home on Labor Day despite the glorious weather.

The health ministry yesterday reported 11 more deaths from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, bringing China's toll to 170. There were also 187 new infections, raising the number of cases to 3,647 nationwide.

As the number of SARS deaths in Beijing rose by seven to 82 and confirmed cases by 122 to 1,415, authorities were taking no

CHINA'S/A16

10-wheeler accident kills 15

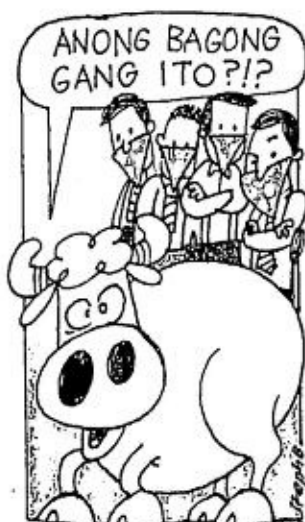
By Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MEDINA, Misamis Oriental—The Labor Day celebration of a group of employees of a wood company in Gingoog City turned bloody when they figured in an accident here at around 1 p.m. yesterday.

At least 15 people, including two children, died after the 10-wheeler carrying employees of Apco Lumber hit an electric post in North Poblacion here near the Gov. Pelaez Gymnasium.

Three others were seriously injured and were rushed to the hospital by bystanders.

10-WHEELER/A18



All solons to wear masks

By Juliet L. Javellana

THEY may look familiar but, no, they're not members of the Bonnet Gang.

If plans push through, all 217 members of the House of Representatives will soon be wearing protective masks during sessions.

The plans are part of SARS contingency measures that may take effect in Congress as early as next week, said Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the House

ALL/A18

COA clearing itself, says lawyer on audit report absolving PEA officials

By Volt Contreras and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) report absolving former members of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) management in the alleged overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard is not enough to get them off the hook.

This was the contention of an activist-lawyer who is pursuing a plunder complaint against the former PEA officials in connection with the alleged P600-million overprice of the 5.1-kilometer asphalt road in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

Leonard de Vera, lawyer for the principal complainant Sulficio Tagud Jr., dismissed the COA report as "less than objective" as

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"We have a problem here because COA is clearing itself," De Vera said in an interview. "Granting that there's a special team of auditors who conducted the audit, still (the case) concerned their colleagues; it's suspect nonetheless."

De Vera, who represents the legal advocacy group E-just, said Tagud's complaint dealt with a "conspiracy where there's a big largesse involved."

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COA/A6

'Gio is now an angel in heaven, watching over us'

By Marlet D. Salazar

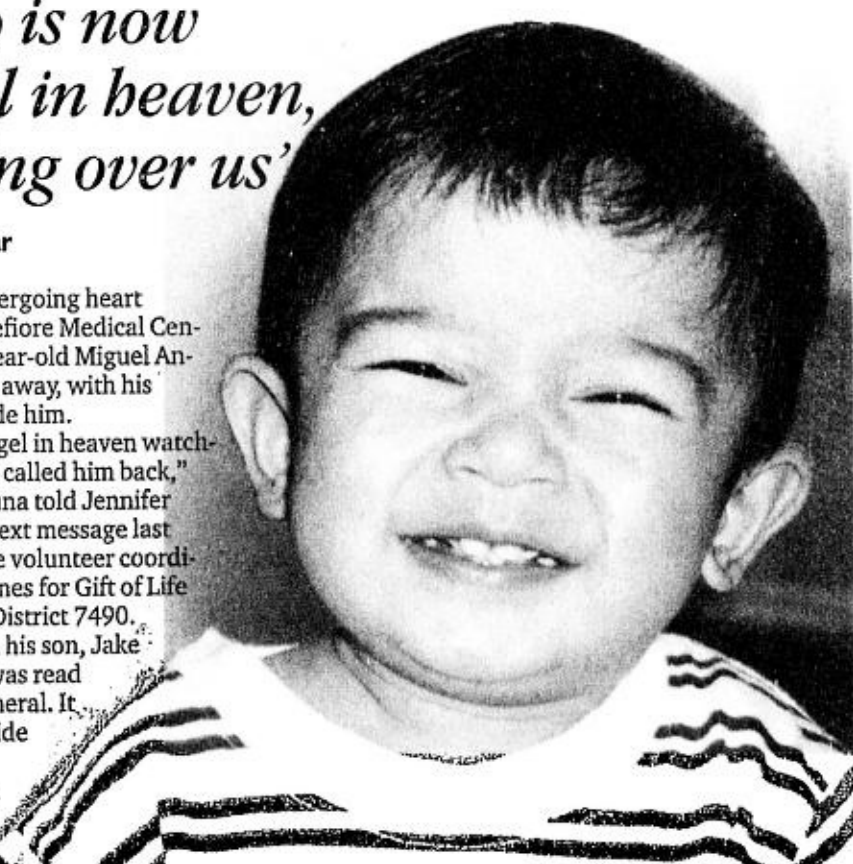
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Unable to be with his son, Jake sent a letter which was read aloud during the funeral. It was later placed inside the coffin.

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GIO/A6



GMA vows to cut power bills, enforce refund

By Carlito Pablo and Abigail L. Ho

PLEDGES to fully reimburse small power users overcharged by the Manila Electric Co. and to reduce electricity bills starting July topped President Macapagal-Arroyo's gift package to work-

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Addressing moderate labor groups as their militant counterparts staged rallies nationwide, the President declared that the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision ordering Meralco to refund the overcharges, es-

timated at more than P28 billion, was a matter of "justice."

But as the President herself indicated, consumers could not expect immediate relief as the refund would first have to go through a "determination process" by the Energy Regulatory Commission, which the chief ex-

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Ms Macapagal said the Department of Energy (DOE) would take the lead in the executive branch's involvement in the implementation of the Meralco refund.

"Justice will be done, Meralco will have to comply with the de-

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GMA/A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/05/02/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

15 dead in Mindanao violence

By Martin P. Marfil

EIGHT soldiers, two civilians, including a baby, and five guerrillas were killed while 12 troopers were wounded as Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels launched new attacks in Mindanao.

Also, two soldiers were reported missing in the incidents that began on Tuesday.

The latest attack, according to belated reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo, was launched Wednesday night when MILF guerrillas harassed an Army detachment in Pikit, North Cotabato.

A soldier was wounded and a bunker was hit during the attack which started around 7:45 p.m.

Five soldiers were killed in Barangay Pagao, Munai, Lanao del Norte, when elements of the 29th Infantry Battalion clashed with about 100 MILF rebels. Eleven soldiers were wounded.

Clashes between government and MILF rebels have intensified after the fall of the MILF stronghold in the Buliok complex in Pikit in February.

In Maguindanao, a soldier and five MILF guerrillas were killed in a fire-fight, the

ers had been killed in the ambush.

Kabalu said three soldiers were wounded in an early morning ambush in Barangay Bara-as, Sultan Gumander in Lanao del Sur yesterday.

He said the soldiers were moving toward the village to attack MILF positions but the guerrillas outsmarted them.

In Maguindanao, an infant reportedly died during the MILF assault on a military detachment.

Military officials said the clash in Munai town lasted about four hours.

Gen. Cristituto Balaoing, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the military men killed were five Moro National Liberation Front rebel-integrates.

Balaoing said Abdul Rahman Macapagar, alias Commander Bravo, was the leader of the MILF rebels.

Bravo had led the April 24 attack in Maigo town, which killed 16 civilians, including an 8-year-old.

As this developed, about 769 families have fled to safer ground to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Munai Mayor Casan Macquiling said the evacuees were from Barangays Tam-

bo, Pangaw, Tamparan and Poblacion.

"Our forces are still advancing through suspected enemy camps in the area. In the short run, we will be able to get Commander Bravo, occupy his sanctuary and deny him access to his traditional sanctuaries," Balaoing told the INQUIRER.

While the hunt for Bravo was going on, a small band of MILF rebels ambushed a military vehicle in Rupagan, Bacoled around 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Among those injured was Capt. Philip Esmeralda, civil military operations officer of the 26th Infantry Battalion, who was supposed to meet Gov. Imelda Dimaporo in Tubod town.

In Magpet, North Cotabato, communist rebels spoiled the eve of the town's fiesta when they shot and killed three persons, including a bystander.

Three masked men armed with .45-cal. pistols shot Cpl. Donnie Santillan of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion and Cagui Danilo Apolinario at a carnival at the town plaza. A stray bullet hit a woman who later died in a hospital. With Jeffrey B. Maningo and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Abu Sayyaf chief slips out of Sulu

ABU Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani, the object of a massive military manhunt, has been able to slip out of Sulu and is now on an island near Basilan.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said Janjalani landed on Pilas island on Tuesday and has gathered a band of about 70 armed men around him.

Yesterday, a soldier was wounded when a Special Forces unit sent to the area clashed with the rebel group around 9 a.m.

Kyamko told defense reporters that aside from ground troops, he has dispatched planes to launch air strikes. Ships, he added, have been ordered to put up a blockade around the island.

"There is intermittent fighting," Kyamko said last night. "We are not sure if Janjalani is still there but they are not running."

Earlier reports said that Janjalani had slipped out of Basilan in October 2001 and was believed to be with two Yemenis.

Also yesterday, government troops engaged an Abu Sayyaf group believed to be holding two Jehovah's Witnesses as hostages in a 15-minute clash in Patikul, Sulu. Martin P. Marfil

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Injured newsman bares new try on his life

DAVAO CITY—Broadcaster and former city councilor Juan Pala Jr. has reported having foiled another attempt on his life even as family and friends of murdered broadcaster John Villanueva Jr. in Legazpi City yesterday urged authorities to quickly solve the first assassination case involving a journalist in Albay.

In a report to the police, Pala said he and a bodyguard repulsed an attempted attack by two gunmen whom they found loitering in a vacant lot near his house in Buhangin District here.

Pala said he and policeman Melchor Castillones, a neighbor and one of his bodyguards, fired at the suspects who drove off in a waiting van.

Villanueva, a former vice mayor of Camalig who was popularly known as Jurr V to his dzGB listeners, was fatally shot by two motorcycle-riding gunmen while he was on his way home on Monday night in Barangay Tagaytay.

Radio listeners have stormed the airwaves calling for the immediate solution of the murder.

The Kapisanan ng Mga Brod-kaster ng Pilipinas-Albay chapter has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct the investigation.

Rodolfo Villanueva, a brother of the slain journalist, said he could not understand why Jun V would be killed as he was known as the kindest broadcaster in Albay and did not indulge in harsh commentaries. His programs, "Buhay mo, kapakanan mo, sagot ko" and "Banguerahan," were mainly involved in public service, he said.

The slain broadcaster had reportedly been summoned in the past by the military to answer allegations that he was a supporter of communist rebels.

Yesterday, Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara called an emergency meeting with officials of the Philippine National Police and the Army to discuss the killing.

Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio Rosal and communist groups operating in Albay have denied any responsibility in

Villanueva's killing.

The fresh attempt on Pala's life occurred even as international and local journalist groups condemned the attack on the broadcaster last Tuesday.

Pala and his three bodyguards were ambushed by three masked men on board a van along Mamay Road in Buhangin District.

The veteran broadcaster, who became famous for his anti-communist campaign, was hit in the buttocks and was rushed to a hospital.

It was the second ambush on Pala. On June 14, 2001, armed men wearing military uniforms also tried to kill him.

Pala has blamed unnamed influential people in the government for the attempts on his life. He said he did not trust the local police and considered the Criminal Investigation and Group (CIDG) as the only credible body to conduct an investigation. Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

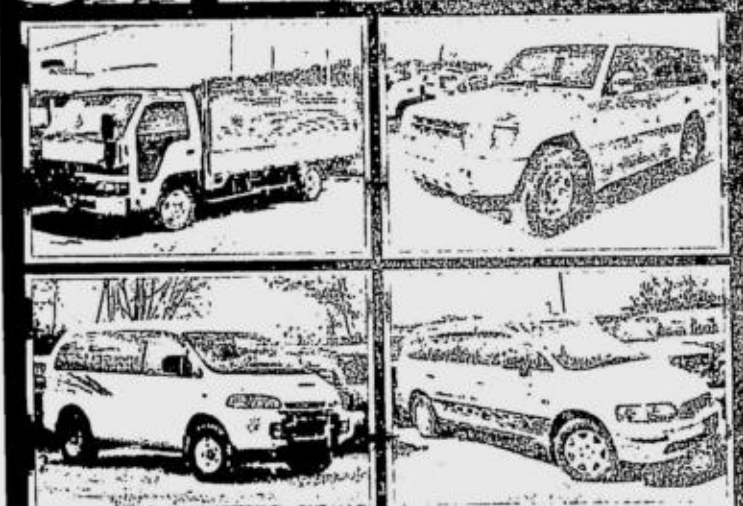
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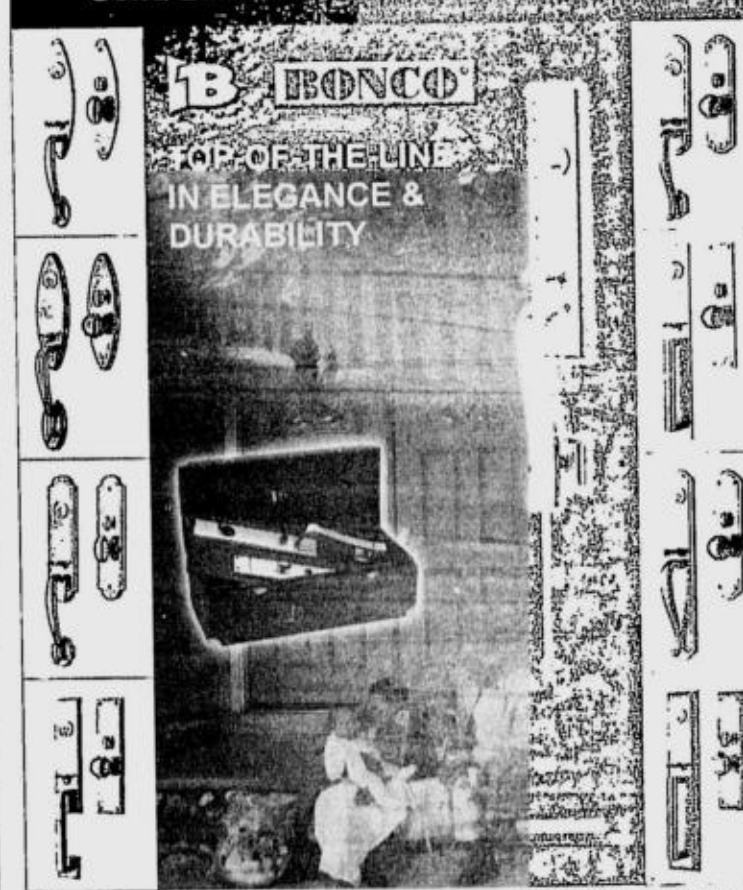
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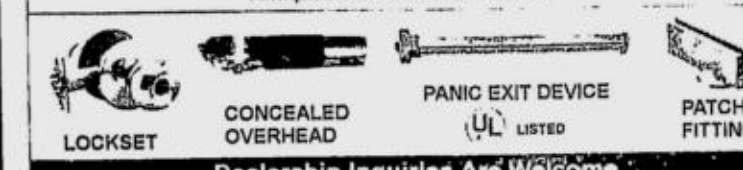


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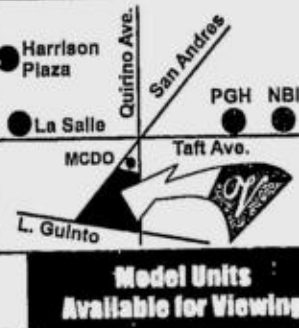
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Bands on the run from SARS

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Filipino entertainers in Beijing have been returning home after the Chinese capital has become a "ghost town" as the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) continues to spread.

Members of the DNA Project Band, a popular musical band from Zamboanga City that performs in the Hard Rock Cafe establishments in China, said most of the bands from Davao and Manila have left as business "is almost completely dead in Beijing."

Only small establishments remain open for business but these are expected to also close down soon because of poor business, said Mel Sebastian and Roscoe Gler, the band's lead singer and bass guitarist, respectively, who were interviewed by overseas phone yesterday.

Sebastian said even the street bars and the Salituna area, a popular summer hang-out for foreign tourists, have become "dead places" after Chinese authorities ordered their closure following the SARS outbreak.

"All disco and karaoke bars in-

cluding swimming pools have been ordered shut down," the two musicians said.

They said that four nights ago residents were told to stay indoors while planes flew over the city, spraying chemicals.

Some 7,000 to 8,000 Filipinos, mostly professionals and entertainers, work in the Beijing area. They usually gather at the Philippine Embassy there.

"Even in the embassy, the officials are very strict. One cannot get in without wearing a mask," said Sebastian, adding that the members of the band were taking precautions to protect themselves.

The band's contract with Hard Rock Cafe in Beijing ends on May 15, after which it will perform in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province where the SARS virus originated. From there the band will move on to Shanghai.

In Kidapawan City, a Chinese national related to an ethnic Chinese businessman residing there, was brought to a Davao City hos-

pital on Wednesday after he showed pneumonia-like symptoms.

City authorities have shut down the establishment where the suspected SARS patient stayed and quarantined everyone believed to have been in contact with him, including the employees of the establishment.

Health officials said the Chinese national, who commutes between Guangdong and Beijing, had been cleared of SARS.

Even then, Mayor Luis Malulan said other offices in the building, including the office of the Department of Trade and Industry, would also be shut down.

"People inside the building are showing their cooperation with us. We are also trying to contact the DTI office in Manila to inform them about the situation of their office here," Malulan said.

In Davao City, Councilor Peter Lavina said he would push for the passage of a resolution ordinance providing for emergency fund to prevent the spread of SARS.

Lavina said the fund could be used to pay the SARS quarantine allowance of people undergoing quarantine, hazard pay for health workers attending to SARS cases, purchase of protective gear and other expenses to prevent the spread of the killer disease.

Lavina said quarantine was the only effective measure to contain SARS.

"But this can only be effective if the persons directed to go on quarantine will be provided with an adequate allowance for their daily needs to prevent them from leaving their areas of isolation or confinement," he said.

Lavina said health workers are the most vulnerable to the SARS virus, which has shown no signs of slowing down as the death toll and infections continue to spread worldwide.

Lavina said the SARS emergency fund could be administered by the city health office and could initially sourced out from the Lingap Fund of the city government. Rolly A. San Juan and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Asians top emigrants to Canada

OTTAWA—Some 229,058 immigrants arrived in Canada last year, the government announced Wednesday.

This was within the Canadian government's range of welcoming 210,000 and 235,000 immigrants, said Immigration Minister Denis Coderre.

Asia continued to lead the list of countries providing immigrants, with China at the top of the table with 33,248, followed by India with 28,706, Pakistan with 14,152, the Philippines with

10,977, Iran with 7,871 and South Korea with 7,347.

Coderre said 60 percent of the newcomers were "economic immigrants," emphasizing that this was type of immigrant Canada needed to bolster its economy.

"Each newcomer," he said, "brings a unique combination of skills and attributes to help this country reach its true potential, both economically and culturally." Most immigrants—133,616—settled in the nation's richest province, Ontario. AFP

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo views the model of the proposed Fish Processing Plant during the 1st National Bangus Industry Congress held at Leisure Coast, Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan City. Dagupan is celebrating its annual Bangus Festival. PDI PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

Chief Justice hails passage of bill hiking judges' pay

By Michael Lim Ubac

DECLARING it "a big day" for the judiciary, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. led a thanksgiving celebration late Wednesday to mark the passage of Senate Bill 2018, which will increase by 100 percent the take-home pay of judges and justices.

At the party hosted by the bill's sponsor, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Davide said it took Pangilinan one year and three months to shepherd the bill through the upper chamber, "but it took us to dream a lot in the Supreme Court and the judiciary to realize a victory for the courts."

Davide said a thanksgiving party was in order "because never before did we have this breakthrough in judiciary reform, which Congress has acted upon."

Davide said he expected the House of Representatives to follow suit and adopt a similar bill that would "approximate the advantages" of SB 2018.

Pangilinan announced at the party that the House would pass its own version next week. He said he expects President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign the measure into law by May.

By improving the compensation package for about 3,000 judges and justices, the measure is expected to help attract more private practitioners to join the judiciary.

Pangilinan said that, if enacted into law, the bill would help fill up 44 percent of vacan-

cies in the first-level courts, and 21 percent in the regional trial courts.

"But in other regions like the Eastern Visayas, the vacancy rate is as high as 80 percent," he said.

"This is a part of the most comprehensive reform program of the entire judiciary. And it will go a long, long way in ensuring that it can truly attain an independent and effective judiciary worthy of the trust and confidence of the people," Davide said.

Pangilinan said the next move would be to increase the salaries of prosecutors, which the Senate would start to work next week.

He said this was part of a continuing effort to improve judiciary processes.

To improve the compensation package of court employees, the bill exempts members of the judiciary from the coverage of Republic Act 6758, or the Salary Standardization Law. Justices and judges will receive monthly salaries ranging from P45,042 (salary grade 26) to P109,834 (salary grade 32).

Other court officials will receive monthly salaries ranging from P27,686 (salary grade 22) to P54,942 (salary grade 30).

Productivity, personnel relief, additional compensation, judiciary development and loyalty allowances and year-end and cash gift allowances of other court personnel were also increased effective Dec. 31, 2002, but these should not exceed 50 percent of basic salary.

Not everyone is happy about the bill, however.

In yet another survey, Roco, Loren are top picks

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF THE elections were held today, Metro Manila residents would vote in as president either former Education Secretary Raul Roco or Sen. Loren Legarda, according to a March 17 to 27 survey of the Ibon Foundation.

The Ibon said it asked 450 respondents who had been randomly selected from various sectors these two questions:

• "If elections were held today, who would you choose as president?"

• "In the coming elections, whom among the following possible candidates would you choose as president?"

In the first question, Roco was the hands-down winner with 42 percent of respondents choosing him, followed by action star Fernando Poe Jr. with 12.75 percent and Legarda, 10 percent.

But when presented a list of 12 possible candidates in the second question, 29.62 percent of the respondents chose Legarda, 25 percent went for Roco and 13.66 percent picked opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Ibon said Legarda also topped the survey for vice presidential preferences in Metro Manila with 19.59 percent, followed by Vice President

Teofisto Guingona Jr. who got 18.07 percent and Sen. Noli de Castro with 12.47 percent.

In the first question, Ibon noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo further dropped to 7th place in Metro Manila, tying with Sen. Edgardo Angara at 1.43 percent. The President ranked 6th in the Ibon survey conducted in the 4th quarter of 2002.

In the second question, the President shared 10th place with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Ranked top 10, after Roco and Legarda, in the first question were Lacson (8.86 percent), De Castro (6 percent), Sen. Juan Flavio (3.46 percent), Ms. Macapagal and Angara (1.43 percent), Guingona (1.14 percent) and former President Fidel Ramos (.88 percent).

In the second question, the fourth to 10th placers were Poe, Flavio, Ramos, Guingona, De Castro, businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, Pimentel and Ms. Macapagal.

Ibon said it was not commissioned by anyone, explaining that this kind of survey was conducted quarterly by the Ibon Foundation's research and data bank department. Its latest survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent. With a report from Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau



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5 anti-Bt corn hunger strikers collapse

FIVE of nine hunger strikers protesting the commercial sale of genetically modified corn at the agriculture department have collapsed and dropped out as the strike entered its 11th day yesterday.

The protesters, who had been taking nothing but water and juices since April 22, also had to contend with the summer heat and face a government office that has been empty since Thursday and would remain so for the next three days.

But farmer Luisita Esmao of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pak-isama) said that she and the three remaining strikers have no plans of ending their hunger strike.

They vowed to go on with the strike until the government stops the sale of Bt corn, which they warned could contaminate local poison-free varieties and be hazardous to the health of humans.

President Macapagal-Arroyo allowed the commercial sale of genetically modified Bt corn in the country on Dec. 4.

In a statement, Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (Searice) said Bt corn, which is wind-pollinated and contains a built-in poison to kill the corn borer, is likely to contaminate local varieties of corn, an irreversible process that could wreak havoc on the domestic corn industry.

It said that if farmers' fields become contaminated by Bt corn, the farm-

ers could be sued by Monsanto, which owns the patent to the corn. This was what happened in the United States and Canada where farmers were made to pay thousands in dollars in fines.

They said genetically modified corn may have many hazardous effects on people's health, as scientists have pointed out.

Searice cited a study by noted British histopathologist Dr. Stanley Ewen who pointed out that Bt corn can raise the risk of stomach and colon cancer and hasten the growth of malignant tumors.

The British Medical Association has asked that Bt corn products be recalled because of their unknown health effects.

Searice also pointed to the adverse public reaction to Bt corn, saying that even famine-struck countries like India and Zambia have refused to accept the genetically modified food even if given for free.

The five hunger strikers who have dropped out of the 11-day-old protest are Antonio Claparols, Gigie Cruz, Ramon Fernando, Rei Panaligan and Anne Larracas.

The three who are still strong enough to continue the protest are Roberto Verzola of Philippine Greens and Mark Cervantes and Arman Bertuso of Searice. Leila B. Salaverria

Malaysia nabs Pinoys with guns

TWENTY-TWO Filipinos in a boat carrying a large number of weapons were arrested by Malaysian authorities Wednesday off Sabah.

A top Malaysian security official said yesterday their military and police have deployed divers to search the seabed after the Filipinos reportedly dumped other weapons overboard after they were spotted off the coastal town of Sandakan, Malaysia.

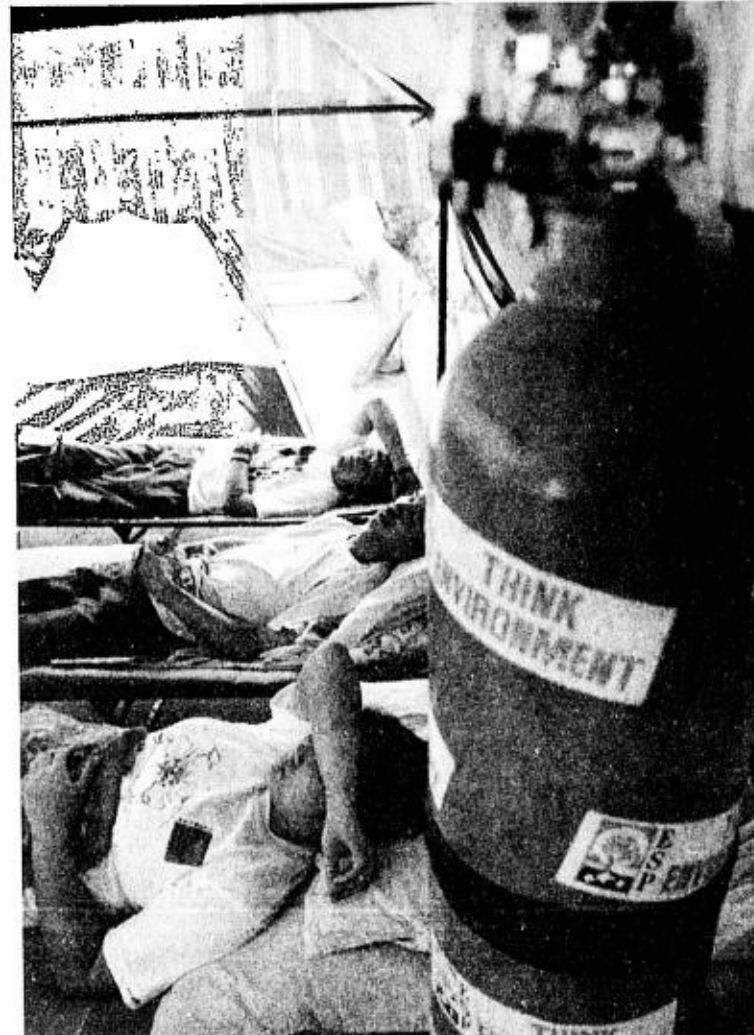
The Utusan Malaysia, a Malay-language daily, reported Thursday that the cache included a large amount of explosives material and 216 bullets.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the 22 Filipinos included one woman. "I think they were trying to escape the current military offensive in southern Philippines," he said.

"They are now under police custody and are being questioned," he added.

The official said police would attempt to find out why the group entered Malaysian waters and what the weapons were to be used for.

"With the recent bomb attack at Jakarta airport, we are concerned if these weapons were meant for another terror attack," he said. AFP



HUNGER strikers at the Department of Agriculture lie in cots to preserve their strength, in their fight to stop the distribution of Bt corn in the Philippines.

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Drug stings net 3

POLICE and anti-narcotics agents arrested a suspected drug dealer after a running gun battle in Cavite Wednesday night.

Collared was Jose-lito Sanga, who is facing charges for violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act before the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

Operatives from the Taguig police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency allegedly found a plastic bag with 10 grams of shabu on him, as well as an undetermined amount of the drug and a .22-cal. rifle in his vehicle.

Police had set out to entrap Sanga in a buy-bust at Casimiro Townhomes in Barangay Habay, Bacoor on Wednesday.

Sanga showed up but backed out after apparently sensing that his buyer was a cop. He got back in his white Pajero and sped off toward Tirona Highway.

The operatives set up a roadblock but Sanga drove through it and got away. This started the police chase.

Sanga reportedly shot at the operatives and kept driving, sideswiping an unidentified pedestrian and a Honda Civic.

The agents opened fire, flattening his tires, forcing him to stop. He got off and tried to run, but was arrested.

After midnight Thursday, a 29-year-old sales rep was arrested by PDEA agents in Makati City for allegedly selling P7,000 worth of Ecstasy pills to an undercover narcotics agent.

Sonny Aguinaldo, of Malate, Manila, was nabbed after allegedly handing over a sachet containing 10 Ecstasy pills to a PDEA agent in front of a Chinese restaurant on Makati Avenue at 12:15 a.m., Friday.

Earlier, a team of PDEA agents arrested former fireman Wilfredo Borja Dimaano after reportedly finding 50 grams of shabu, suspected marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his home. TJ Burgonio

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JOAN BONDOC

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GMA vows to cut power bills, enforce refund

From page A1

collected starting 1994.

The overcharges stemmed from Meralco passing on its income taxes to consumers and including assets not directly related to the business of distributing electricity in its operating expenses.

"All that is left to do is to determine how to best implement this judicial mandate in a manner that will maximize the public interest," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said that the DOE would petition the ERC to order the full reimbursement of small electricity users and provide for deductions in the future monthly bills of moderate power users.

"We have confidence in the institutions involved," she said. "We will see this through."

The President did not say the amount of electricity that one uses for someone to be called a small consumer. But the Consumer Oil Price Watch (COWP) earlier said that those consuming 300 kWh or less per month, who represent about 77 percent of Meralco's customer base, were small residential consumers.

COWP and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) are pushing for the immediate refund to residential customers before talking about stock options and refund for bigger consumers.

Meralco said it would comply with a Supreme Court order to refund its customers, but warned it could affect its cash flow and operational viability.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco told ABS-CBN television that the refund would affect Meralco's bottom line in the coming months and force the company to forego its planned expenditures to improve services.

"Our biggest problem in the months ahead will be our cash flow. We want to remain operationally viable, which means we must get the cash flow for us to maintain our operations," he said.

Meralco officials are set to meet with creditors and shareholders to come up with a "financial plan that will allow us to proceed with the refund and yet remain operationally viable," Francisco said.

Socialized pricing

In her speech, the President also came up with the following measures to provide relief to electricity users:

- The DOE will petition the ERC that should the latter grant Meralco's request for higher electricity rates, big users will have to bear the full increases while small users will be given discounts "under the principle of socialized pricing."

- The government has convinced power producers providing electricity to Meralco to give discounts to the company. This arrangement is expected to lead to the lowering of the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) cost being paid by consumers.

- The state-owned National Power Corp., which is up for privatization, will "down-scale" its operations to allow independent power producers (IPPs) to achieve "economies of scale" so that power costs will go down.

- The Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan, in which the government has a stake, will reduce its charges to power producers in the next three years.

"We hope that all of these and other measures we're still looking at in order to reduce our electric bills will bear results that you will see in your bills in July this year," Ms Macapagal said.

Francisco said it was feasible for electric bills to go down by July, provided that all stakeholders work together.

"That's what we're all working out. Rates can even go down earlier, but July is a good enough allowance," said the Meralco president.

If the IPPs could operate at higher capacity levels, the much criticized PPA could go down, according to Francisco.

Based on generation rates in March, Francisco said the PPA could go down by as much as 25 centavos if Meralco's three IPPs could run at minimum energy quantities.

Aside from state-run power firm National Power Corp., Meralco gets electricity from IPPs Quezon Power Plant Ltd. and First Gas Power Corp.'s Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo plants.

However, Bayan said allowing IPPs to generate more capacity was not an assurance that electricity rates would go down.

"It's just a sales pitch for the privatization of the power sector. Some IPPs are actually monopolies that can dictate prices and even create artificial shortages," Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Too good to be true

He said the promise of lower electricity rates by July may prove too good to be true. "It's almost July but electricity rates are still going up. There's no relief for consumers now. What will happen to all the excess payments we've already made? Will all these be refunded, too?" he said.

Reyes said Meralco continued to pass on its tax burdens to its more than three million customers by way of the P0.167 per kilowatt-hour overcharge that it had been charging since 1994.

He called for broader public participation in determining how the refund would be done to ensure that consumers are not "shortchanged."

A supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada said Ms Macapagal's measures aimed at lowering the cost of electricity would not help consumers unless PPA is abolished.

Herman Tiu Laurel, Edsa Tres Commission convenor, said the President should abolish the PPA if she really wanted to help the people.

Laurel said consumers were paying P35 billion to P50 billion a year in PPA costs. "We are paying for electricity

that we are not using. That is a day-time hold-up on the nation," he said.

He added that the government had

to borrow P27 billion last year just to keep electricity rates from rising.

The Philippines has the second

highest electricity rates in Asia after Japan, according to Laurel. With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and AFP

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A HUNGARIAN REFINANCING

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COA clearing itself, says lawyer on audit report

From page A1

COA report could be used by the concerned PEA officials as "a defense. But it's neither conclusive nor binding—and can be challenged in court."

Cross exam

The special team of COA auditors who prepared the report can be subjected to cross examination, De Vera said. The audit team, headed by state auditor Elizabeth Savellana, included state auditors Eliodoro Riel and Leticia Torres, engineers Jeremiah Saño and Bella Delino, and lawyer Eden Rafanan.

The Oct. 4, 2002 plunder complaint filed by Tagud and civil society groups is still pending with the Evaluation and Preliminary

Investigation Bureau of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Aside from 12 PEA officials, the respondents included COA auditors then assigned at PEA, namely Gloria Cornejo, Arturo Layug, Benilda Mendoza and Manuela de la Paz.

Sought for comment, a ranking official privy to the case in the Ombudsman's office said the COA report "may be persuasive, but not conclusive." The official requested anonymity.

Former PEA Chair Ernest Villareal welcomed the COA report as an "important first step in my eventual vindication."

He challenged Tagud to accept the findings of the post-audit which "he himself requested."

"I'm so glad that this crucially situated boulevard, named after

one of our country's greatest Presidents, will now be freed from taint which should never have been attached to it," Villareal said in a faxed statement.

He also took note of the "salient features" of the report as follows:

- That the portion built by the contractor JD Legaspi Construction cost more than the work done in other portions by SM and Arseana because JDLC's work "required soil consolidation and stability;"

- That COA conducted borehole tests in coordination with the Bureau of Research and Standards of the Department of Public Works and Highways, which are "the most objective means of ascertaining the nature, quality and quantity of the

materials used, and likewise supported our claim that there was no overprice."

- Villareal said he felt "utmost satisfaction and relief" over COA's findings which came "after so many months of baseless accusations and premature conclusions from various parties."

Second opinion

But a militant group wants a "second opinion."

"We want an independent body to look into this road scam," said Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas.

In asking for an independent inquiry, Hicap said the "higher ups" might have sent "marching orders" to COA "to clear their disciples involved in the scam so the

issue would not reach the doors of Malacañang."

"This is another major reversal of truth and justice under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration," Hicap said.

He said the COA report clearing PEA officials and JD Legaspi Construction was a "gross endorsement of the administration's cycle of crimes of corruption."

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said "COA did not do its homework."

"Auditing is not merely an issue of figures and statistics. The subject of the controversy is a scam deeply rooted in political patronage and hinged on the criminal and corrupt minds of the people who are out to make juicy commissions from a highly camou-

flaged deal," Corpuz said.

He said the COA report should not affect the complaint against the PEA officials and contractors. He said the Office of the Ombudsman should junk the motion to dismiss filed by four PEA respondents who cited the COA report as basis.

"Definitely they're not off the hook," Corpuz said. "The war has just begun and more cans of worms will be opened with this recent catastrophe perpetrated by the COA."

"We hope the cause-oriented groups which filed the case against the PEA officials and JD Legaspi will vigorously pursue the plunder complaint and nail down those responsible for this crime against the taxpayers and the Filipino people," he said.

'Gio is now an angel in heaven, watching over us'

From page A1

muppet from TV's Sesame Street) was draped over the coffin. It seemed an apt symbol of Gio's short, happy life. Jake later e-mailed Montojo: "The priest gave an inspiring eulogy: 'Somewhere, somehow, in the future, Gio's death will mean so much to each one of us.'"

Gio was a beneficiary of free heart surgery, courtesy of the Foundation and BOES.org (action@boes.org), a Sweden-based Internet lifeline founded by Bo Eric Sandberg. It helps parents find sponsors for their children's heart surgery. Gift of Life has many branches throughout the world.

Visa after 3rd try

The De Lunas, with the help of Rev. Andrew Topp, Foundation chair, were able to secure the elusive visas from the US Embassy (it took them three interviews) in time for Gio's heart surgery scheduled for April 15 (not April 19 as earlier reported).

Loretta and her son left for the United States via Northwest Airlines on April 12. They stayed in New Jersey with Americans Richard and Maureen Kraus.

Dr. Henry Issenberg, pediatrician and cardiologist, and Dr. Gregory Cooke, surgeon, attended to Gio in Montefiore.

On April 15, a sonogram was taken. The next day, Gio underwent cardiac catheterization. On April 17, he went under the knife.

But Gio's lungs could not handle the flow of blood from his heart, although it was already pumping normally. The doctors attached him to heart and lung machines, and Loretta was told it would take only two or three days.

"The pediatric ICU director had been sleeping at the hospital since Gio's operation and the nurses were doing a great 24/7 job," Jake was informed in one of the e-mails.

Doctors had monitored Gio's lungs round-the-clock. A board was slipped beneath him so X-rays could be conducted in his room.

Because of the lack of circulation, he developed some boils on his right leg. The lack also kept his body temperature down.

In an e-mail to Montojo, Jake, who works in a consulting firm, wrote: "Gio is still on ECMO machine since April 18. His vital organs are functioning but have sustained some injuries. Hopefully these will heal in due time. There has been not much change in the status based on X-rays being done daily. We are still strong in the faith that He will heal Gio's lungs."

Because of the complications, Jake planned to fly to the United States. But on April 24, Gio was declared brain dead. Loretta quietly held her child for more than half an hour.

On April 30, Loretta brought Gio's ashes home.



SARS MADONNA

But what about the baby? Only her mother Jelaine Cabrera protects herself on arrival at the Naia on Thursday.

ROGER MARGALLO

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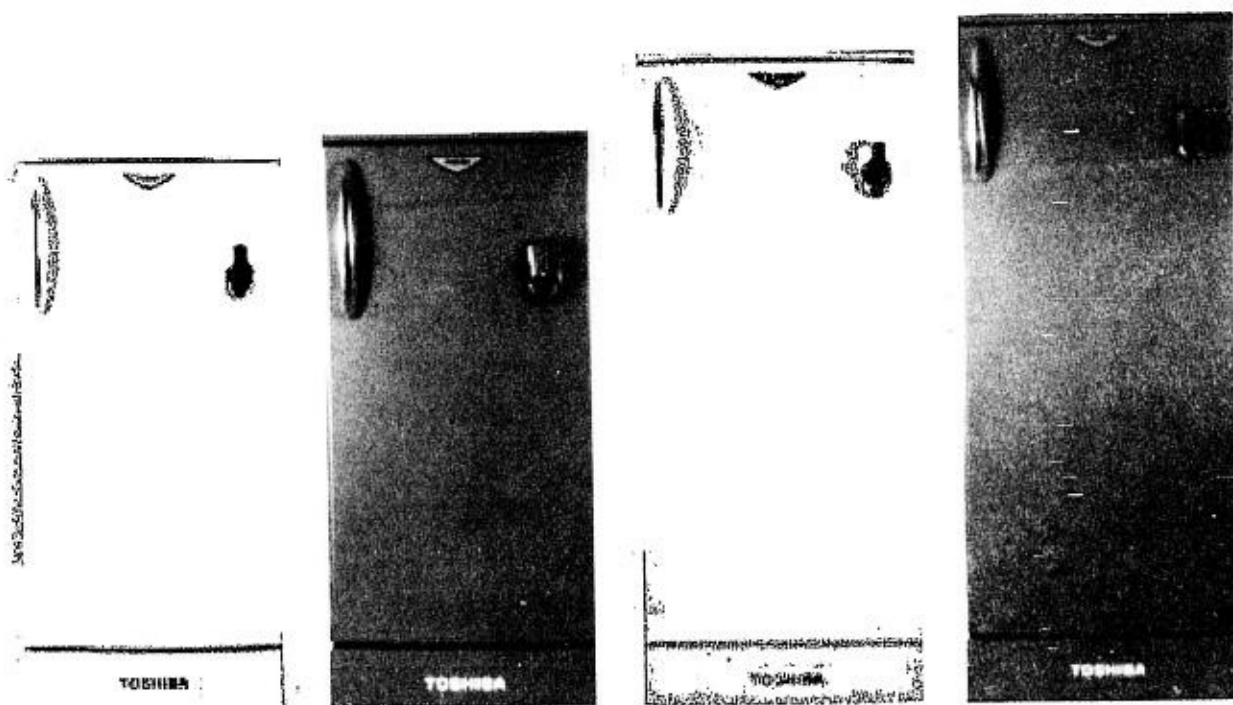
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SARS kills Filipino caregiver . . . SARS clinics may send wrong signal—Guingona

From page A1

cial in the Philippines blamed lax isolation procedures for the unwanted spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus at the RITM.

JP likely got the SARS virus from a 90-year-old patient he had been taking care of at Orange Valley Nursing Home, where he worked.

The elderly patient died before being fully identified as a SARS victim.

JP succumbed to atypical pneumonia at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. He was the 24th SARS death in Singapore and the only Filipino probable case, out of 16, who did not survive the illness.

His remains had been scheduled for cremation yesterday morning. The immediate cremation is in accordance with Singapore's policy related to SARS and other highly infectious diseases.

The father identified his son's remains through a glass window of the tightly contained ICU of the Tan Tock Seng hospital. Orange Valley paid for the father's trip.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Ernesto Llamas reported that the caregiver became SARS-symptomatic on April 6 and was immediately admitted to the hospital.

The DFA said it was on the 13th day of his confinement that JP's condition began to deteriorate.

The DFA's official announcement ran contrary to earlier reports that the caregiver got the SARS from his girlfriend, who eventually recovered from the symptoms. His girlfriend was reportedly a member of a hospital staff also in Singapore.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said the ashes would be brought to the Philippine Consulate today for a Mass with the Filipino community.

Imson said that all 15 Filipinos in Singapore suspected to have SARS have been "cleared and discharged" from the hospital.

RITM staff

In a press briefing, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the RITM "resident doctor" and the nurse were classified as SARS suspects because of their direct exposure to Mauricio Catalon when he died on April 22. Mauricio was brought to the RITM on April 19, after reportedly contracting the virus from his daughter Adela, who died on April 14.

"They are SARS suspects because they developed fever within the incubation period from the time they were exposed," said Dr. Remigio Olveda, RITM director. The incubation period is from seven to 14 days.

Both the doctor and the nurse had run temperatures as high as 38.2 Celsius high. As of yesterday, the doctor continued to be afflicted with a "mild fever," while the nurse was afebrile—without a fever—for about 24 hours already as of yesterday.

"She had fever that started yesterday, but there are no signs of pneumonia or shortness of breath," Olveda said of the doctor, adding that she also had a history of contracting pharyngitis three days before coming down with a fever.

Although the two are in isolation, he said they themselves doubted whether they were victims of SARS.

Dayrit said it was natural for any of RITM's 517 personnel to come down with a fever, but gave the reassurance that those who do will be immediately placed on isolation even if they are not infected with the SARS virus.

There are now 12 SARS suspect patients at the RITM, including the niece of Adela, Jennifer Catalon. The Catalons are two of the three confirmed SARS cases in the country; the third was a German national who has since recovered.

'Even if heartless'

But Jean Marc Olive, country representative for the WHO, said initial difficulties on the part of RITM personnel to enforce quarantine procedures could be one reason why SARS had spread at the RITM.

The fight against SARS "can be ruined by (health personnel and patients) not observing proper isolation rules and infection control measures in hospitals," Olive said.

"We have to avoid inter-hospital transmission of the disease," he said, although he admitted that "it's very difficult to refrain those people from meeting each other."

Olive was alluding to the case of Jennifer, 27, who was allowed into the room of her grandfather Mauricio when he was dying.

Dayrit admitted that RITM personnel erred in the matter.

"There was some leniency there. Even at the point of death, even if the patient was dying, none of the relatives should have been allowed to enter the room," Dayrit said.

Olveda said that because of errors caused by the "human factor," they had asked the Catalons to stay in isolation a while longer.

He said RITM personnel had been instructed to strictly enforce quarantine procedures, even if they will be seen as "heartless."

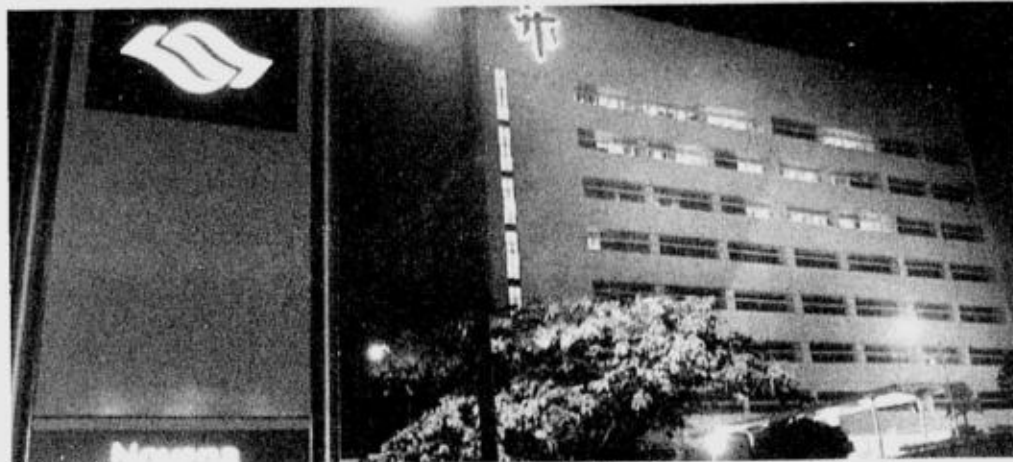
Olveda also asked people not to discriminate against the RITM's medical personnel.

He said the RITM was in talks with local government and barangay officials within the RITM vicinity in Alabang, Muntinlupa to assure them that there is no danger from SARS.

"They should not be scared because the number of cases we see at RITM are mostly non-SARS. Out of the 100 cases, only one may turn out to be suspected SARS," he said.

He said that soon, many of the SARS patients may also be attended to by regional and provincial health hospitals, once they are upgraded.

Besides, he said, the transfer of the SARS virus is only through droplets, so "if you are five meters away from the source of infection, it is very unlikely that you will be contaminated."



ALL'S quiet in the vicinity of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore though there's a walkway from an MRT station as people reportedly have been avoiding the area since the SARS outbreak. It is in this hospital that the 24th SARS victim, a Filipino, died on Wednesday.

He said the SARS virus couldn't be transmitted by air. "We are making sure that the air coming out from the RITM patients' room will be clean," he said, adding that they have advanced

filter systems that kills a virus within "three hours and not spread beyond five meters."

But Dayrit said the SARS virus was likely to die immediately upon exposure to ultraviolet rays.

By Norman Bordadora

BUILDING a nationwide network of SARS clinics may send the wrong signal, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said yesterday. It may unduly project the Philippines as a SARS danger zone despite having only three confirmed SARS cases.

Instead of putting up the network, the government must focus on meeting the needs of quarantined communities and quarantined families and individuals, Guingona said.

"We must provide (those undergoing quarantine) with food and their other basic needs. Having a nationwide network of SARS hospitals will only project the image that the Philippines has a problem with SARS," Guingona said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had earlier said that the confirmation of three SARS cases in the country

does not place the Philippines on the same level as China, Canada and Hong Kong as far as the threat of SARS is concerned.

"We will file a diplomatic protest if any country issues a travel advisory against the Philippines or a travel restriction against Filipinos on account of SARS. A few cases does not make us a dangerous country," Ople said.

The government has bared its plans to build a nationwide network of SARS response centers with the capability of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa City.

RITM director Remigio Olveda told the INQUIRER that regional SARS response centers would be set up in the cities of Baguio, Cebu and Davao to help the health care system in the countryside cope with any SARS outbreak.

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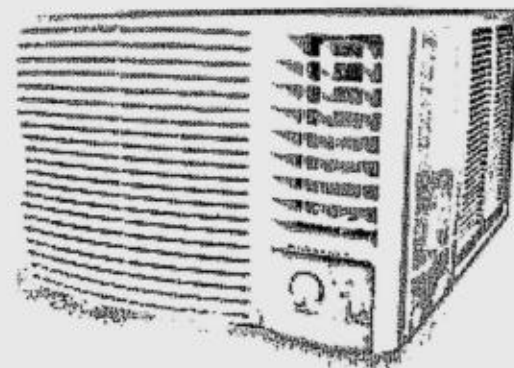
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Name your price

IF a section of road cost almost six times more to build than another portion of the same road, the only logical conclusion anyone can possibly reach is that the first part must have been grossly overpriced. Right?

Wrong, says a special audit team of the Commission on Audit that investigated allegations of graft and corruption in connection with the construction of a 2.3-kilometer portion of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclamation

EDITORIAL area. That short stretch of the six-lane boulevard was constructed at a cost of P837.3 million, or about P302,000 per lineal meter by J.D. Legaspi Construction. Another part of the same road built earlier by the SM Group cost P54,000 per lineal meter. SM also built a 100-meter bridge at a price of P552,783 per lineal meter, while another bridge built by Legaspi cost almost four times at P1,909,343 per lineal meter. Based on this cost comparisons, Sulficio Tagud Jr., a member of the board of the Public Estates Authority, estimated that the contract with Legaspi was overpriced by about P600 million.

The stink of that scandalous transaction was so overpowering that President Macapagal-Arroyo fired the top officials of the PEA as well as the chair and members of the PEA board, who had approved the series of price escalations, change orders and other contract adjustments that found the agency paying P837.7 million for a project whose initial contract price was P584.36 million. Tagud and several cause-oriented groups sued the other PEA officials for plunder.

However, a special COA audit team that looked into scandal, headed by state auditor Elizabeth Savella, found absolutely nothing wrong with the contract to build what could be the country's most expensive road. The COA report, which was made public Wednesday, said the comparison of costs, which was the basis for Tagud's claim of overpricing, was "untenable" because of different soil conditions in different portions of the boulevard. "The project is constructed in accordance with the approved design, scope of work and as-built plans and specifications. The audit team, therefore, finds no sufficient basis to support the allegation of overpricing," it said.

If anything is untenable, it is the conclusion of Savella and her team of auditors. For how can anyone fail to notice the huge difference in the contract costs between one portion and another portion of the same road project? As to differences in soil conditions, Savella and her team should have asked why Legaspi had to spend hundreds of million compacting the reclaimed land when the GSIS building, which stands along the controversial stretch, hasn't shown any sign of sinking into the bottom of the sea.

Just as interesting is the new auditing doctrine expounded by the Savella team. It says that so long as a contractor conforms with the approved design and follows the plans and specifications, there cannot be any overpricing. If this is the new standard for determining the fair price and integrity of government contracts, a contractor can offer to build a road, a dam, bridge or any infrastructure for P1 million and then jack up the price to P1 billion, and the COA will find nothing unreasonable in that at all.

As far as Savella and company are concerned, the sky is the limit for change orders, escalation costs and other cost adjustments. Name your price is the name of the game in government contracting. What are the Filipino taxpayers paying these government auditors for?

SARS cover-up

THE SPREAD of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), though slow, is worrying enough. Now concern about the disease is compounded by the discovery that in China officials have deliberately covered up the true extent of the initial outbreak there.

In one incident, SARS patients were loaded into ambulances and sent cruising the streets of Beijing to conceal the extent of the epidemic from visiting World Health Organization doctors. It is unclear what prompted such deception. Perhaps it was a bureaucratic inclination against passing bad news on to superiors, or the belief that too much bad news of that kind would cause panic in the population.

Perhaps it was also the shame of having to concede to foreigners that this new disease, which first appeared in China, was not fully under control. If so, that was an unfortunate and unnecessary reaction. Once such a disease appears, what matters most is to know how it is caused and how it might be prevented. It is no shame for a country to be struck by a new and terrible scourge such as SARS. There is more than shame, though, in putting at risk the efforts—both Chinese and international—to contain and counter the disease.

The Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney, Australia)

FOREIGN COMMENT



Two rivers run through it

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



THESE lazy hot summer days, when the temperature sizzles, one's thoughts invariably turn to his favorite waterhole in the old days. I can't help but think back to the river in my old hometown of Malabon (which is in the news now because of the troubles its present mayor is having) where I spent many happy days frolicking in its waters when I was growing up.

Two rivers run through the municipality on which fluvial parades and water sports contests were held during town fiestas. The rivers were also highways. Loads of nipa, vinegar and bamboo from Bulacan were poled down the river in flat-bottomed boats called *cascos*. People then moved about in *bancas*, carrying the day's catch from the fishponds, the river or the sea to the markets. When we were going to the elementary school in Hulo, we usually took a *banca* to cross the river, walked on the fishpond dikes and came out near the school. This saved us plenty of time going around and over the Tonsuya Bridge and on to the long road to school.

The rivers served not only as roads but also as playgrounds for children, and a source of livelihood. They served the water needs of the innumerable fishponds lining them. And anybody needed only go fishing in its waters to catch the family's *ulam* for the day, day or night, high tide or low tide. At night, during low tide, you could catch fish by simply wading in the shallows with a torch and a bamboo trap called *salakab*. The fish were mesmerized by the bright light and it was a simple matter of putting the *salakab* over them and reaching for them through the hole.

During low tide, you could catch shrimps simply by groping for them in the mud. Shrimps bury themselves in the mud with only their eyes showing and you could feel their firm bodies in the mud. Or you could walk in the shallow water with a *dala*, a net weighted with pieces of lead. When you spotted a school of small fish, you threw the net over them, then you slowly pulled the net toward you with the fish inside.

When the water was chest- or waist-high,

you pushed a *sakag* through the water. This is a V-shaped contraption with a net. The open end slides over the mud bottom and fish were caught in the closed end. A variation of this is another contraption where, instead of your going to the fish, the fish were made to go to you. The net trap was stationary while the two ends of a long rope tied with banana fronds were pulled toward it. The banana fronds scared the fish into swimming away from them and into the net trap.

In the wider, deeper portion of the river, there were fishtraps called *bakiad* and bamboo rafts with nets called *salambao*. The fishtraps were V-shaped bamboo fences in the water that terminated in fish cages. The fish swam along the fence and into the cage where they couldn't get out. The trap owner hauled them out with nets every few days.

The *salambao* had a very wide net hanging at the tip of long bamboo poles. The net was lowered into the water and raised again after about half an hour. Fish unlucky enough to be in the net when it was hauled end up in the cooking pot. The *salambao* was then poled to a new location and the net lowered again. In the course of a single day, the *salambao* could move a great distance and have a big catch, mostly shrimps, crabs and small fish.

While fishing by *salambao* seemed effortless, it was nevertheless boring and time-consuming. So *salambaos* have lean-tos on board where the two-man crew could snooze (at night, an incandescent lamp was hung over the net to attract the fish) and a stove to cook their meals.

The war in our midst

(Conclusion)

ELECTIONS offer an example of our lack of will. You find it in the concept of "winnable."

We do not lack for candidates who are honest and decent, who have a track record of being able to do things. Yet we do not vote for them because they are not "winnable." We do not vote for them because we think a vote for them will be useless and wasteful. We vote instead for the "winnable" candidates. That is the kind of thinking that has produced the *trapos*, the absentee congressmen, and Erap.

What is "winnable" really? While seemingly commonsensical, it is a perfectly strange concept. To imagine that someone is "winnable" is to invest him with an attribute he does not possess. What makes someone "winnable" is the simple fact that we vote for him. The property of "winnability" does not inhere in him, the candidate, it inheres in us, the voter. The "winnability" of candidates is not an external thing, a divine or transcendental power that lies beyond us. It is an internal thing, an earthly and corporeal power we hold in our hands.

The only thing worse than our not being empowered by our government is our disempowering ourselves.

This is replicated everywhere, from something so simple as traffic to something so elaborate as corruption. The way we talk about traffic, you would think it was something out there, a force or power beyond our control that oppresses us. When traffic is just the mess we ourselves make of city streets whose solution is for us not to mess our city streets. The way we talk about corruption, you would think it was something out there, a force or power beyond our control that oppresses us. When it rages merely because we tolerate it in our officials whose solution is for us not to.

We have no dearth of examples to show the lack of will of our leaders and ourselves. But where does this lack of will come from? Is it in our nature? Is it in our stars that we are underlings?

Not at all. It is simply this: We have no sense of country.

That is something I've said again and again

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



these past years, and it's something I've come to believe more and more each day. That is because the evidence is not dissipating, it is piling up more and more each day. Not least in our willingness to do everything Washington bids.

That is where our lack of will comes from.

I'm always amazed each time some of our leaders toy around with the authoritarian option to try to solve this country's problems. Look at Singapore, they say. Look at Malaysia. They are ruled with an iron hand, yet they have prospered to astounding lengths. Maybe if we had something better than Ferdinand Marcos, maybe if we had someone like Lee Kuan Yew or Mahathir Mohammad, we would do the same thing.

I leave the libertarians among us to rail at the folly of embracing authoritarianism once again. Suffice it for me to say here that it misses the point altogether. The source of success of Singapore and Malaysia is not their authoritarianism. Their source of success is the same source of success of the other countries of Southeast Asia, now including the former Indochinese countries. They have different political orders, different religions, different ways of life, but they have something in common. They have a sense of country.

That is the thing to marvel at, not authoritarianism.

We are a country that has no sense of the past, our history having been forcibly blotted out from our minds by our colonial rulers or replaced only by a story of their own. We are a country that has no present, having ourselves internalized the habit of forgetting everything that happens to us, without anyone to prompt us so, saying to ourselves none of it matters, life goes on. We are a country that has no fu-

Because of this, the *salambao* was a favorite spot for picnics.

It was in one such *salambao* where I first learned to swim. We were having a picnic there when my oldest brother suddenly threw me in to the water. I was terrified and clawed my way to the surface and thrashed about to get back to the raft. Everybody was watching me, I learned later, wondering whether I would be able to make it back to the *salambao*. I did, to the applause of the onlookers, after swallowing mouthfuls of salt water, inducing a coughing fit that I thought would kill me. I learned later that the strongest swimmers already had instructions to dive in (a few of them were already in the water) and save me if it appeared that I was drowning. I learned to swim very well after that. Learning to swim is only a matter of self-confidence learned. Once you are able to save yourself from drowning, you can get confidence and you need only to practice to become an able swimmer.

For the children, fishing in the fishponds was as much a part of playing as real games. Almost every day, with fishing poles which we painstakingly fashioned out of bamboo, string, and store-bought fishhooks, we fished from the long banks of the fishponds in the hot sun. We caught the small, finger-sized *biya*, for these were voracious eaters and it was easy to catch them. They were small but it was easy to catch enough of them for the family's noonday meal.

In September, the small crabs called *talangka* were plentiful and it was even easier to catch plenty of them. You didn't have to hook them. They just clung to the bait scraps of fish or meat until you lowered them into the gallon can where they couldn't escape. Early in the morning, the crabs greeted you while sunning themselves on top of the algae that grew in the fishponds which the milkfish feed on. In the river, they swam in droves with the current and it was a simple matter of lowering your bait among them to catch them.

Those were happy days. They're gone now, killed by pollution.

ture, groping in a world bathed in fog and ether, giggling and writing text jokes along the way.

The horrific consequences of not having a sense of country we see around us every day. We have no concern for the country, or to use that sublime Tagalog word, *malasakit* for it. The rich think nothing of raping and pillaging the country because their sons and daughters study in American schools, just as they did, and can always relocate there when the rebels or volcanic eruptions overrun it, whichever come first.

The poor think nothing of trashing the country since their leaders do so as well, they can always sell the carabao or family heirloom or steal them to buy a ticket to Amman or Oman, *bahala na kayo dyan*, goodbye. Everybody else thinks nothing of driving on the wrong side of the road and grinding traffic to a halt, throwing plastic on streets and sidewalks, pouring out putrid factory waste on rivers, and coughing out dark fumes into the air.

Know your enemy, I said earlier. You do not know your enemy, you will never be able to fight your war. You do not know your enemy, you will never be able to win your war. We look closely at the war in our midst, a war that has very visible effects even as it remains invisible to the naked eye, a war that is near to extinguishing the fires of our resistance, to go by the numbers raising the flag of capitulation, and we find that the enemy, whose cruel visage leers at us like a grinning gargoyle, is: We ourselves.

We are at war with ourselves in the sense that we are at war with our hearts, with our ability to find the courage to live for democracy as much as die for it. We are at war with ourselves in the sense that we are at war with our minds, with our ability to find the will to do what has to be done. We are at war with ourselves in the sense that we are at war with our souls, with our ability to see that we put in the hands of gods or demons what lies in our hands to accomplish.

We are the enemy we must fight. We are the enemy we must vanquish.

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Bad timing

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



THE LAUNCHING of the "united opposition" at Club Filipino on Wednesday, endorsing Sen. Panfilo Lacson as its candidate for president in 2004, was an ill-fated decision from the start.

It was launched at the worst possible time—when the front pages of the newspapers were hogged by the international concerns over the raging SARS epidemic to counter which Asean leaders were holding an emergency summit in Bangkok.

Lacson, unless he committed suicide, could not have possibly sidelined SARS to claim full attention for himself. In this regard, Lacson has revealed he has no sense of good timing—an essential element in political success—and that it can be said that he is the first political casualty of SARS.

The Club Filipino launch drew in bold relief, not a picture of a "united" opposition but one in pathetic disarray. It highlighted the unbridgeable cleavage between Lacson's group and the faction led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, the head of the LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino). Angara pointedly shunned the gathering, virtually calling it a rump session of the opposition. He also warned that the Lacson group could have broken the Election Code with the premature endorsement of a party presidential candidate.

Angara virtually branded the assembly as illegitimate and without party blessings.

An examination of the leading personages who attended the assembly and who were pictured with Lacson reveals the types of politicians endorsing Lacson. Most of them were die-hard loyalists of deposed President Joseph Estrada—among them, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Rep. Agapito Aquino, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Estrada's former executive secretary, now Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales and Lito Banayo, Estrada's political strategist.

Enrile is an incurable putschist, and the rest represent a profile of a failed, discredited and stigmatized government with which Lacson has identified himself. There is nothing refreshing or

inspiring about this configuration whose binding identification, jumping out like branding iron on cattle, is Estrada. So, if this is the kind of derelicts Lacson is getting into his bandwagon, there is no hope that he can generate fresh, young and creative leadership except that he falls back on his caricature as a law and order strongman.

The "face of the united opposition" is claimed to include both members of the LDP and Estrada's token Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP). Apart from the boycott of Angara, Orly Mercado, who was PMP leader during the 1998 election campaign, was not even there.

There must be compelling reasons why Lacson was in great haste to proclaim himself the opposition standard-bearer. Apparently, Lacson wanted to preempt the field while no one is showing, according to early public opinion polls, a decisive lead. From published surveys, the earlier front-runner, ex-Sen. Raul Roco, has been tied to 23 or 24 percent, and his plateau is a bad omen. It means he is not catching the public imagination and he has not gained from President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to retire in 2004. The President's constituency has not switched to Roco and it appears to have been scattered to other presidential aspirants identified in the polls. Lacson has not improved his rating in the published polls and this indicates that the field is still a free-for-all. The stalemate also indicates that the people are still waiting for an inspiring dark horse, and the list of known contenders is nothing, if not a catalogue of more of the same tired and sapped politicians.

Angara's boycott of the Club Filipino assembly foreshadows a bruising, no holds barred battle for

control within the opposition ranks. Angara is said to be forging an alignment with Eduardo Cojuangco. Whatever the reason for their alignment, both are distancing themselves from Lacson's camp. Cojuangco has been sounding out public opinion about a possible presidential bid, and the polls that may be released this month will show whether he is electable. Both Angara and Cojuangco represent a significant bloc in party organizational terms. Both have parties, which Lacson does not have. Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition is a vital leg of the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

The NPC has 55 members in the House, holding a quarter of House seats, and as a bloc, the party allows Speaker Jose de Venecia to stay as speaker and to form a coalition that facilitates consensus and passage of the administration's key legislative agenda.

There is one other reason why Lacson seeks to gain an early advantage by preempting other presidential aspirants. He received a blow recently from the Supreme Court decision allowing the reopening of the trial on the Kuratong Baleleng massacre case. This reopening has created uncertainties with Lacson over its outcome and its impact on generating damaging publicity.

Lacson has managed to produce the perception that he is the man to beat on the grounds that he is backed by Chinese community money. This is a myth that he is trying to foster. The political reality, however, is that the Chinese community is the shrewdest source of campaign contribution, as well as the weather vane of where the political tide is flowing. Chinese money flows to candidates the Chinese community perceives to be the front-runner. If any contender jumps ahead of the pack in the next few months and gains momentum, the bulk of Chinese money will flow to that candidate without solicitation.

Thus, the immediate aftermath of the Club Filipino assembly is that it shattered the myth of a "united opposition" and the other myth of Chinese money being monopolized by any contender.

Bad air and SARS

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



LAST Monday's "I-Witness," produced and presented by Howie Severino, proves the absurdity of all our SARS paranoia. Here we are, working ourselves into a tizzy over a fast-acting respiratory ailment when all these years we have been breathing in air so polluted in some areas it has the consistency of weak *gato lugaw*.

The Metro Manila captured by Howie's camera is a seething inferno of burning garbage, clouds of white smoke from "Japayuki" buses and jeepneys, and air so filled with dirty particulates that white air filters turn black at the end of the day. "This is the same air we breathe in," Howie explains, "and you can imagine what our lungs look like."

A tour of the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital put a human face to this crisis. The camera pans across row upon row of cribs where babies and young children depend on respirators to allow them to breathe. One boy, a "suki" of the hospital's children's ward, has been in and out of the hospital due to chronic asthma, bronchitis and other lung ailments. A doctor said one of his lungs has become so degraded that it will need to be surgically removed soon if the boy's remaining healthy lung is not to be likewise infected.

But the children were not the most pitiful sight among the patients in the government hospital. True objects of pity were elderly men who staggered up to a pair of oxygen tanks and stood there, madly breathing in and out to get their daily relief from breathing difficulties. So dependent had they become on the devices, said Howie, that they had set up makeshift homes in the hospital compound. Life does tend to lose all meaning when it's reduced to a few minutes of air supply a day.

OF course, given the state of our environment, and we're not just talking about air pollution but degradation of our bodies of water, soil and other natural resources, should SARS become widespread here, ordinary Filipinos would have a hard time fighting off the disease.

That's precisely why SARS presents such a nightmare scenario. On top of the doubtful capability of our health system to cope with a possible deluge of cases, there's the poor

health status of our people, made even more precarious by a poisonous environment.

But it strikes me as ludicrous that folks should now be buying up face masks and driving prices skyward for fear of being contaminated by a virus supposedly floating in the air when all this time we've been breathing in deadly substances like mercury without giving a second thought (or look, since our air is increasingly becoming visible) to it.

Yesterday, I said that the only way we can make sure our children are free from the threat of TB is to make sure they live in TB-free communities. That's even truer in the case of respiratory ailments and air pollution. The way to fight the encroachment of "Usok City" is not to build walls or even a huge transparent plastic dome around one's home or workplace. It's to join hands with like-minded individuals and groups to lobby government and the private sector to take air pollution seriously, to work toward the day when we can no longer see the air we breathe, and the mere act of breathing is no longer itself a threat to one's health and survival.

BUT keeping out people whom we simply suspect of harboring the SARS virus is NOT a really effective way to protect ourselves from the disease. Especially when the new pariahs are health care workers, the front liners in our war against the disease.

Two villages around the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Alabang, through their barangay officials, have prohibited RITM employees from passing through their roads, for

fear that the workers might be "spreading" any SARS virus they might be picking up in the hospital. Even more disturbing is news that RITM workers who live in these two villages are being shunned by their neighbors.

Commendably, RITM management has reacted reasonably, meeting with concerned homeowners and barangay officials to educate them about SARS and its modes of transmission. After all, the SARS virus is not airborne, but rather spread through droplets (from saliva and mucus of infected individuals) that travel through air and then settle on surfaces, such as door knobs and even elevator buttons. But to be infected, one has to be in close contact with infected persons, who would be running a fever, coughing and experiencing breathing difficulties, by which time they would probably be inside a hospital.

That's why many of those infected by SARS have been health workers. But for their sacrifice, they should be lauded and supported, not shunned and isolated.

WHILE better information and less hysterical coverage would go a long way toward dispelling the erroneous myths and deplorable attitudes toward SARS and its victims, perhaps more stringent action from the government is needed.

Why can't DILG Secretary Joey Lina issue a warning to local executives, including barangay officials, that any of them implementing or tolerating the community persecution of SARS suspects will face sanctions? Local leaders, I would think, should be at the forefront of bringing sobriety and calm to our communities regarding SARS, and not courting "pogi" points by riding on the communal hysteria and ignorance.

Local leaders, especially barangay chairs, should also be utilized as "information officers," for they are in the ideal position of clarifying their neighbors' fears and suspicions, and organizing them to take concerted but sensible and humane steps to prevent the incursion of SARS into their communities.

Kyoto thoughts

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



KYOTO—Everyone I spoke to before my departure said the old imperial city of Kyoto was a beautiful place. They were not wrong. One week into my six-month research fellowship at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, I already wish I had applied for a one-year grant when it was still being offered.

Most people I met here sighed while saying I should have arrived earlier to catch the cherry blossoms but with my pollen allergy I think tourist brochures and postcards will suffice for now. The weather is cool compared to Manila, air quality too. Here I can actually take a bicycle to and from my office. The only problem is being used to driving in Manila—now on a bike instead of a car, I am paranoid about getting run over, or being forced off the curb by an impatient driver. So far, so good.

It's a pity Jose Rizal didn't leave us with any impressions of Kyoto because it would have been fascinating to follow his footsteps as other historians have done here in Japan, basically in search of the woman he was involved with, O-sei-san or Usui Seiko, depending on the book you are reading. All we have on Rizal's trip to Japan are a short travel diary and some letters to his family. The Japan he describes is quite different from the one where our Japayukis and Hostos work today.

I live in a part of Kyoto that still has traces of its agricultural past. Small plots of land planted with vegetables would be the Japan Rizal saw in his time. In Yokohama, for example, he said that the Japanese lived, "in odd-looking houses, like the little houses or cages of rabbits, very clean, with paper walls, white mats on the floor, lattices, etc. etc. They make no noise; loud voices are not heard; they sit quietly in their stores." Walking in the side streets of this side of Kyoto, I noticed the same thing. Its so quiet and in residential areas nobody seems to be in the streets.

I notice that many Japanese have their hair dyed blonde, their fashion sense will make Tessa

Prieto-Valdes pale in comparison. The women also have the habit of putting on their makeup in public. Filipinas try to hide under a small compact but here the Japanese have mirrors as large as legal-size bond paper and come complete with a whole *kikay* bag of cosmetics enough for a neighborhood beauty parlor. Rizal described Japanese women as "short, stout, fair and their cheeks are red. Their hair is stiffer and thicker than ours, and I have seen few with good teeth. There are some who have big eyes." Frankly, the type of Japanese woman Rizal saw is quite rare these days and I would think that the closest we can possibly come to seeing something similar today would be in traditional plays and tea ceremonies. Maybe even the photo studios that rent out costumes and makeup to transform any tourist into a geisha or a samurai complete with sword.

Writing to Blumentritt from Tokyo, Rizal has more to say about Japanese women:

"The old attire of Japanese women was and is very pretty, but now they want to introduce here among themselves the not-too-comfortable European dress, in spite of the fact that Japanese women are even smaller than Filipino women. Thank God, the common women are still dressed in the old style, but the rich ones who are dressed in European style have a sorry look. Certainly, it is fitting that Japanese women wear European shoes instead of the ugly and uncomfortable Japanese footwear. European shoes can harmonize perfectly with the Japanese dress."

One can only wonder why the women are described more than the men. In his letters to his family and Blumentritt from Tokyo in March 1888, Rizal had only one sentence to describe men. He observed that Japanese who wore European outfits resembled people in Biñan, Laguna. I guess this is a private joke. One would wish that he wrote more. Shortly before he left Japan for the United States en route to London, he wrote another letter to his family, a fragment of which is all that survives. It reads in part:

"I have stayed here longer than I intended, for the country seems to me very interesting and because in the future we shall have much to do and deal with Japan. [How very prophetic indeed]. I'm learning Japanese. I can make myself understood in it, and though badly, I can express what I want in it. I have traveled on foot and by train and also by jinrikisha [rickshaw, their version of our own *padyak*] until Utsonomiya, Nikko, Kodzu, Odawara, Tonosawa, Mimoto, Miyano-shita, Oshihama, Kamakura, Todsuka, etc. Flowers are blooming on the tree branches, camellias are reddening the green foliage of the gardens, the plum and cherry are beginning to give a white or vaporous rose tint to the landscape shaded by the dark pines and gigantic cryptomeria. The temples are located in these beautiful places and for the believers entrance into such garden must cause a certain impression that ought to predispose them to retirement and meditation..."

National Artist Arturo Luz advised me to walk in a bamboo grove and visit a garden with 2,000 kinds of moss while in Kyoto. This all sounded so silly and esoteric a week ago, but after having explored my first temple and crossed carefully placed stones across a river near my office, I realize why Japan has always charmed artists and writers. One is always inspired into quiet reflection.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Humble joys

VERY nostalgic was the day last June when the University of the Philippines honored us golden anniversary alumni. Exciting memories were recalled, experiences of 50 long years told, faces old but still charming (so they said) gladly seen again.

Picture me as a fresh BSE graduate—young, exuberant, raring to teach boys and girls the skills and art of communication. This opportunity came soon enough, for that same school opening I was given my first teaching assignment.

HIGH BLOOD

Rosario Ples-Nem Singh

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtiesomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

On one side of Juan Luna Street hunched Ismar Annex of Torres High School, unpainted, decrepit and begging for repairs. There I spent my first year of teaching, unmindful of the squalor or the difficulties, for I had the most loving, the most hero-worshipping, the warmest students I ever saw in three decades of teaching.

My first students were high school freshmen. I can still recall their names and still think about them, each one a unique personality but all of them so good and dear.

I remember the three boys, Salvador, Luis and Nemensio. They spent their vacant periods with me and tagged along wherever I went in school. They interviewed me about my family, my own school days and my philosophy in life. Salvador was the brightest in class, curly haired and handsome, and the one who vowed to love me forever.

I remember Avelina who invited me to her home one fiesta and to her piano recital, the class singer Amelita, big boy Armando who later became a professional boxer, fair-skinned Lino who brought me guavas and kamachili, class secretary Aurora who helped me a lot with the class records and notes.

I think of them and the many joyful moments we spent together. One day, for example, a bemoustached man (a student's father) entered the classroom, went straight to where I was writing on the board and extended his hand for shaking. So we shook hands and talked about what, I don't recall anymore. But I remember that when I glanced at the class, I saw not only Salvador and Nemensio, but many others, shaking each other's hands and having a wonderful time doing it.

One day, a ball suddenly flew into the room. It had come from the next-door neighbor's yard where big, burly men were playing basketball. They played almost every morning creating some distraction in our classroom. Now that we had the ball, I thought this was a chance to teach the men a lesson.

I got the ball and ceremoniously put it on my table, announcing to the class that we would not return it. I had just finished talking when a big, burly man clad in shorts and nothing else, was suddenly at our door, hands outstretched for the ball. I promptly took the ball on the table and tossed it to him, as gracefully as a PBA player would do it. The man gestured his thanks and left. My students and I enjoyed this incident for quite a while.

One day, while I was teaching comparison of adjectives, a tall boy, probably a junior, passed by our window. He was alone, talking to nobody in particular, but he said in a loud voice, "Kung teacher ko iyan, liligawan ko." My students and I had to take some time before we could go back to comparison of adjectives.

Then I was asked to screen applicants for a singing contest to be held on the school's anniversary. On the day set for screening the library where it would be held was so filled with students that I had a hard time getting in. It proved to be a wonderful day for I did nothing but listen to songs by all sorts of voices. Many of them, I guessed, knew they couldn't make the grade but they wanted to sing, so I let them sing.

I heard one of the male teachers say, "I didn't know we had so many aspiring singers here in Ismar."

His companion answered, "Yes, because, look at the chairman (referring to me, I think), so young and charming!" See, that's one of the pleasures of teaching.

Christmas that year was unforgettable. The greeting cards started pouring in as early as the first week of December. Before the last school day of the year ended, all the 48 students had given me something, even naughty Armando who got the most scolding from me. I got some presents, too—a novel, "The Rosary" from Aurora, a box of handkerchiefs from Amelita, a photo album from Lydia.

Poor little Celso gave me a card with a word erased from the front. I read the dedication inside and found out that it was for a wife. Pressing the card to my heart, I tried to feel the child's innocence and love.

That Friday morning, pretty Anita went around to her classmates in the room arranging numbers for the class Christmas program. She had a piece of paper on which she wrote the names of those who were going to sing, recite something, dance, or whatever.

During the program, she called the clown Joselito to sing. "Why?" he asked. "Nagpalista ba ako?" But the class ganged up on him and so he had to sing although his voice was doing a tremolo. After his song, he said, "Any comments, classmates?" as if he had just delivered an oral composition. The class laughed.

Nemensio stood up, "Why are your hands always in your pocket?"

"Because my money will lost," he readily answered. This set the class into another gale of laughter which went on and on.

As I was leaving the school, several sophomores, not my students, approached me and handed me their Christmas cards. Again, one was for a sweetheart. (My mother really enjoyed reviewing those Christmas cards, which I kept with me for a long time.)

There were other pleasurable moments, our winning the "cleanest room" award, our singer's first prize, but it is impossible to name them all.

But it was not all laughter, even during that first year. One day there was Ramona, crying as if her heart would break. A classmate had called her an unpleasant name. After a long talk with the two girls, and managing conciliation, they walked away the best of friends. The bone of contention was a second year boy with whom they believed they were in love with. I tried to make them see that a wide world of love awaited them in the future, but what was more important right now was their friendship with people of their own age.

Then there was little Celso. His social studies teacher said that the boy was going to fail because of too many absences. "Ask your mother to come talk with Ms Alfonso," I told him.

"Ma'am, my mother is sick. She has heart trouble. And my father is away working. He's a carpenter."

"All right, I'll see what I can do," I promised. Talking with Ms Alfonso was no small ordeal. I was a greenhorn while she was quite old, considered by the students as a "terror." She was also known for being a stickler for regulations. But she finally said, "Well, okay, I'll pass him."

In Ismar Annex of Torres High School, in the heart of Tondo, I found the inspiration to dedicate myself to teaching. Although I thought I couldn't last, the children sustained me and kept me at the job for nearly four decades.

Rosario Ples-Nem Singh was with the Division of City Schools, Manila for 37 years.

Misleading view of contraceptives

I FIND the INQUIRER editorial cartoon last April 17 very disappointing. The cartoon shows three dirty Moriones soldiers about to crucify an unborn baby with "abortion," "contraceptives" and "anti-pregnancy vaccines and injections." The cartoon gravely misrepresents several terms in the issue of family planning and this dangerously communicates the wrong information.

As far as the medical community is concerned, the cartoon is a great slur to the Hippocratic

oath that doctors take when they enter the medical profession. Doctors prescribe contraceptives because they feel these are in their patients' best interests. No doctor will willfully take a human life, whether born or unborn, yet the cartoon seems to imply that doctors, by prescribing contraceptives, knowingly kill unborn children!

Contraceptives should not be placed in the same category as abortion. While abortion is the killing of an unborn child, contra-

ceptives merely prevent pregnancy from happening in the first place. The prevention of pregnancy should not be equated with murder.

The term "anti-pregnancy vaccines and injections" is very misleading. There is no such thing as "anti-pregnancy vaccines and injections." A vaccine is administered to prevent diseases from happening. There is no such thing as a vaccine that prevents pregnancy, which incidentally is not a disease.

Does CSC memo negate population control efforts?

CIVIL Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino-David said that regardless of civil status, women government employees are entitled to maternity leave benefits. Previously, only married women in government service could avail themselves of materni-

ty leave benefits, but under CSC Memorandum Circular 22 which took effect last year, single parents who rendered an aggregate of two or more years of service shall be entitled to a maternity leave of 60 calendar days with full pay.

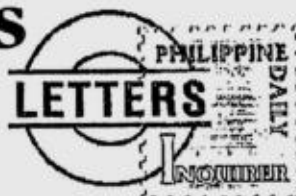
It seems to me that CSC Memo

Circular 22 encourages premarital sex. It is also against the Population Commission's implementation of population management, as there are three babies born a minute and our population is one of the fastest-growing in the world, according to Pop Com Ex-

ecutive Director Tomas Osias.

Any comment from CBCP president Bishop Orlando Quevedo and running priest Fr. Roberto Reyes?

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St.,
Parang, Marikina City



Contraceptives are very much needed in a country with a burgeoning population like ours. It is sad that many people are misinformed and think that contraceptives are evil.

—DR. LYRA RUTH
CLEMENTE-CHUA, president,
Philippine Obstetrical and
Gynecological Society (POGS)

Are our hospitals ready for SARS?

ARE the Philippine hospitals ready to face the SARS problem? Through high-profile media exposure, the Macapagal administration projected that the Department of Health is ready to handle SARS. But based on our experience as health workers, government hospitals like the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and the San Lazaro Hospital do not have the necessary facilities, e.g. negative pressure rooms for positive cases and isolation rooms. We also lack a sufficient supply of protective gadgets like disposable masks and gowns. We also lack an adequate

number of quarantine and hospital personnel to handle SARS cases.

As it is, operating government hospitals are not able to perform at optimum levels due to a severe lack of funds. Our government hospitals suffer from SARS—Severely Anemic Resources for Services. For this year the government has reduced the already meager health budget by more than half a billion. Affected are the San Lazaro Hospital and RITM by P2 million, and other government hospitals by P2 million to 12 million cut per hospital.

The government declared that it will allocate P1.5 billion for SARS prevention and patients management. For the sake of the patients,

we hope this is immediately released. The P16 million promised to the RITM through the PCSO is still awaiting release. For April, only P11 million of the P22 million budget for the San Lazaro Hospital has been released.

How can these government hospitals effectively respond to SARS cases if they do not have the necessary resources? If the administration is really sincere in responding to health problems like SARS, the government should prioritize allocations and resources for health. Do not just promise. Do it now!

—EMMA MANUEL,
president, Alliance of
Health Workers,
King's Mark Bldg.,
Vicente Cruz St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

More on SARS

I'M very worried about bumping off the Department of Health as "ill-prepared" in handling the SARS situation...

How can our health authorities prepare themselves for the "supposed onslaught" of the disease when their main source of information and basic data (the US Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization) does not even know what Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome is all about?

How can one person prepare for something he really doesn't know enough of?

With all respect to the health authorities the world over, they should admit that SARS isn't an epidemic in the first place.

Do we call tuberculosis an epidemic? Look closer. We don't, do we?

What more about the common pneumonia that claimed more lives in one month alone than the entire number of SARS cases the world over from January 2003 to date?

Epidemic, endemic, pandemic. These words really cause some confusion. Some medical definitions may not totally agree with the layman's concept of the words. The WHO, CDC, DOH and other health agencies worldwide may have stricter defining criteria. They adhere to them for better understanding.

Let us review the three words as many understand them—the simplest that we can remember, far short of being experts from the WHO or CDC:

1. Epidemic: an infection is called an epidemic if it occurs more frequently than usual. SARS is listed as an epidemic now (even if the number of victims is smaller than TB) because this is the first time the medical world has recognized the entity which is causing the disease in increasing numbers. Most epidemics that we know of are memorable for their scope (huge number of cases) and capacity to cause tremendous suffering or death.

Notwithstanding the growing health threats, SARS does not qualify yet to be called an epidemic in the strict sense.

2. Endemic: an infection that is constantly occurring at a certain level in a given population and time. TB is known as an endemic in the Philippines because a certain number of Filipinos per year is affected by it (determined by disease surveillance and statistics). When TB in the Philippines is referred to as an epidemic, it describes a situation of increasing number of infections higher than the endemic level (relatively constant).

3. Pandemic: if an epidemic has a worldwide distribution, one can refer to it as a pandemic.

So with the above definitions, SARS can be viewed as an epidemic with a pandemic distribution at the moment.—PT

The problem here in the Philippines is not SARS but panic. SARS is really a dread disease but why should everybody panic? This is the most common disease among Filipinos... panic! As when there's probable food shortage, panic-buying *ang lahat*. SARS really took many lives worldwide but our government officials should not focus on this disease alone. They must remember that hundreds are dying in public hospitals daily due to lack of facilities and the patient can't afford to buy the needed medicines. What are President Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Manuel Dayrit doing to solve this problem? They don't care "dahil mahihirap ang apektado, ganon ba (only the poor are affected)"?—magnump357ph

The President declared SARS a national emergency? What is this? I hope she won't embarrass herself again. SARS may be an epidemic but not a national emergency where she can use her emergency powers to further make the populace panicky and uncertain. What an irresponsible statement.—svengali

Of all the days to be in the wrong places, it had to be today. I was going to an early meeting in the office this morning and I was already one corner away from the office when this man spat and I was standing in the direction of his spit. So I got an early morning spit shower.

What the hell is wrong with these people? Can't they just keep their spit to themselves? I want to bathe and change right now but I'm still in the office.

I've already washed up to my arms and put hand sanitizer on my face. How can these people be so unhygienic!—JChip

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Turkey quake kills 150, traps school kids under rubble

BINGOL, Turkey—An earthquake rocked southeastern Turkey on Thursday, demolishing buildings including a boarding school dormitory, trapping scores under rubble and raising fears that up to 150 people had been killed.

The tremor registering 6.4 on the Richter scale crumpled the concrete dormitory building housing primary schoolchildren.

Rescuers clambering over the rubble could hear the cries of children trapped below.

"There are around 150 of our little ones there... May God preserve us from worse," Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said.

"Our hope is that the rescue work will end happily and not in an outcome distressing to our children or ourselves... From our telephone conversations, I feel our colleagues are in control of the situation."

A Reuters reporter on the scene said he could see at least 10 buildings flattened by the force of the tremor in the center of the town. The minaret of one mosque had toppled.

Children rescued from the mountain of rubble that had been the school building were comforted by helpers as they lay on blankets. Bystanders cheered as one small boy, dazed and tearful, was pulled from the masonry and carried to an ambulance.

A staff member at the school dormitory, a four-story building outside the center of Bingol, said around 35 children had escaped the building as the quake struck and a further 25 or so were rescued from the wreckage.

Women wailed and cried as local soldiers and civilians pounded with pickaxes and mechanized diggers at the rubble of apartment blocks.

Erdogan gave no overall numbers for the

dead. The state-run Anatolian news agency said reports so far showed 40 people had been killed in Bingol's city center and in villages in the area. Hundreds more were injured.

Housing Minister Zeki Ergezen, speaking in the capital Ankara, said unconfirmed reports put the estimated death toll as high as 150. "The picture is getting increasingly serious," he said.

Aftershocks continued to ripple underfoot. Military vehicles toured the city warning people not to approach damaged buildings.

The injured overflowed into the sunny hospital garden where some wept quietly on makeshift beds and children sucked on cartons of fruit juice handed out by hospital staff.

A major earthquake last hit Bingol in 1971, when around 900 people died.

Earthquakes are common in Turkey, which lies on a number of seismic fault lines. Two major quakes hit the north-west of the country in 1999, killing some 20,000 people.

Reuters

May Day bus crash kills at least 44 in S. Africa

BETHLEHEM, South Africa—At least 44 people were killed when a bus carrying trade union members to a May Day rally crashed into a reservoir on Thursday, and officials feared dozens more may have died.

In what is one of the country's worst road crashes, rescuers dragged the bus from the water while divers searched for more bodies. Ten survivors of the accident, which happened 240 km south of Johannesburg, were rushed to hospital.

"There were between 80 and 90 people on the bus," police spokesperson Mary Martins-En-

gelbrecht told Reuters after the accident, which she said happened at about 5 a.m. near Bethlehem in eastern Free State.

Police Senior Supt. Sam Sesing told the South African Broadcasting Corp. the driver had gotten lost in Bethlehem early on Thursday morning and had taken a road out of town that led straight into the dam.

Confederation of South Africa Trade Unions spokesperson Patrick Craven said the bus was taking COSATU members from the diamond mining center of Kimberley to a May Day rally in Qwa Qwa. Reuters

Saudi pullout part of broader US plan

WASHINGTON—The US decision to pull most of its forces out of Saudi Arabia represents the first big move in a broad realignment of forces overseas, with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld saying on Wednesday America must be ready to encounter future threats rather than past ones.

A major shuffling of US forces in Europe may be the next step in the Pentagon's review of the worldwide US military presence, with some of the 68,000 American troops based in Germany moving to eastern European countries such as Romania and Bulgaria, defense analysts said.

In Asia, the United States in the coming years may seek access to bases in countries such as the Philippines and even Vietnam while maintaining troops in South Korea and Japan despite resentment among some local residents toward the US military presence, analysts added.

"There are two trends that we will definitely be seeing," said analyst Christopher Hellman of the Center for Defense Information think tank. "One is an emphasis in expanding our access in the Pacific. And the other is a redistribution of our European forces, particularly into the former Warsaw Pact."

The United States said on Tuesday it would remove nearly all of its roughly 5,000 troops in Saudi Arabia. The ouster of Saddam Hussein

removed the threat posed by Iraq that led to the US troop presence in Saudi Arabia, Rumsfeld said.

US officials are expected to make some additional key decisions within months, such as preparing a blueprint for a revised military relationship with South Korea by October.

A US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decisions would not be made suddenly or simultaneously. "There are clearly some areas where you're going to see some restructuring and reductions," he added, but it is too early to know whether the overall troop presence overseas would change from the roughly 200,000 present before the buildup for the Iraq war.

"It is necessary that we arrange ourselves for the future rather than the past," Rumsfeld said in Baghdad on Wednesday.

"There's no question in my mind but that we have probably too large a number of folks in western Europe—some of which is still a leftover from the Cold War and the fear of the Soviet Union coming across the north German plain. It was appropriate then. It's less appropriate now," Rumsfeld said.

Among the 112,000 US troops based in Europe, 68,000 are in Germany, with 12,000 in Italy and 10,000 in Britain. Reuters

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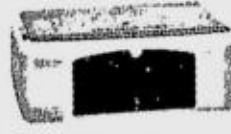
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COMPAQ



Israel troops kill 13 Palestinians in Gaza raid

GAZA—Israeli tanks backed by helicopters thrust into a Palestinian militant stronghold near Gaza City early on Thursday, killing 13 Palestinians, including a 2-year-old toddler, in a gunfight, witnesses said.

The Israeli raid followed Wednesday's release of an internationally backed "road map" to Middle East peace, which calls for an end to 31 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Residents of the Shijaia neighborhood outside Gaza City, the main hub of the coastal Gaza Strip, said Israeli troops raided the area after midnight and laid siege to the house of the family of a militant from the Islamic group Hamas.

Soldiers called on family members inside to leave the house, but they refused, witnesses said.

Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops traded fire during the raid, which was still underway.

Thirteen Palestinians were killed, including the toddler, who was struck by a bullet to his head, and a 13-year-old boy, witnesses and hospital officials said. They said 12 others were wounded.

An Israeli military source confirmed that an operation was underway in Shijaia "against the terrorist infrastructure." The source said at least six soldiers were wounded in the battle.

Hamas, which opposes Israel's existence, has spearheaded a campaign of suicide bombings in the Jewish state since interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deals

were signed in the 1990s.

"This is the practical translation and implementation of the road map," Hamas official Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi said of the raid.

"We believe this road map aims to liquidate the Palestinian cause. We will respond by continuing the resistance (against) occupation and escalating it," he said.

Hours before the road map was presented to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, a suicide bombing hit the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv in which the bomber killed three people.

Hamas and an armed offshoot of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction said they jointly carried out the attack.

Reuters



PALESTINIANS carry the body of 2-year-old baby boy Amir Ayyad after he was killed by a shot to his head by Israeli troops during an attack in the Shijaia neighborhood outside Gaza City May 1.

REUTERS

Bush releases 'road map' to a Palestinian state by 2005

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush plunged into Middle East peacemaking on Wednesday by directing release of a "road map" to a Palestinian state by 2005, as he tried to quell Arab anger over the US-led invasion of Iraq.

With the document being turned over to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and new reformist Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Bush was expected to make a statement about the road map later in the day.

The United States was under-terred by a Tel Aviv suicide bombing that killed at least three people and left 49 wounded, and denounced a statement from the Islamic militant group Hamas in which it vowed no respite from attacks on Israel.

"Hamas is a terrorist organization of course and this is an important moment for the Palestinian Authority to confront terrorism so that peace can be achieved," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

The release of the road map

marked Bush's most intense attempt at peacemaking since he took office more than two years ago.

He has pledged to put the same amount of energy into it as British Prime Minister Tony Blair has into the Northern Ireland peace process.

The degree of his personal involvement in negotiating was unclear. He has tended to let top aides haggle over details while focusing his own efforts on the big picture.

At some point Bush will invite Abbas to Washington to meet

with him, Fleischer said, pointedly adding that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat would not be invited to join Abbas.

The plan, worked out by the so-called quartet of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, calls for a Palestinian state as early as 2005 at the end of a process that starts with a halt to violence and Israeli steps to improve life for Palestinians.

"The Palestinians have taken a serious step," said a senior Bush admin-

istration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The hope is that this will lead to real progress and the road map will act as a guidepost for the parties to work together."

To stick to the road map, the parties will have to act quickly.

Under the document, the Palestinians must take steps to cease violence by May and Israelis must ease restrictions on Palestinians.

Israel must freeze all settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians must

issue an unequivocal statement reiterating Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

Israel must issue a similar statement affirming its commitment to a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel.

Bush is under pressure from the pro-Israel lobby in the United States not to be too tough on Israel. The White House has responded that Bush would welcome contributions from the parties after they review the road map.

Reuters

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Bush to declare major battles in Iraq complete

BAGHDAD—With the Iraq war effectively won, US President George W. Bush was to declare "the major combat operations" complete Thursday, but the United States still faced the twin tasks of rebuilding the country amid widespread hostility and finding ever elusive weapons of mass destruction.

Incidents of violence continued, notably in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, where seven US soldiers were hurt when grenades were lobbed into their base, following the killing of 16 Iraqis when US troops fired on demonstrators in the town earlier in the week.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who made a triumphal visit to US troops in Baghdad Wednesday, ended a tour of the Gulf by meeting with the emir of Kuwait to thank him for backing the US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The future of US forces based in Kuwait was expected to be a subject of Rumsfeld's talks, as it was during his visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, which saw a joint announcement that US combat troops will be out of the kingdom by the end of the summer.

The dramatic realignment of the massive 12-year US military presence in the region closes a chapter that began with the 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the Gulf War that followed.

The White House announced Wednesday that Bush would declare



BUSH laughing at a dinner.

"the major combat operations" complete, in a televised address from aboard the US aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln somewhere at sea on Thursday.

Bush would also say the "next phase" focuses on reconstruction, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said, amid continued local hostility to the US presence in Iraq, despite the overthrow of what Rumsfeld called "a truly brutal vicious regime."

In a speech delivered from a palace once belonging to Saddam, now the US-led coalition headquarters, Rumsfeld told the Iraqi people: "Let me be clear, Iraq belongs to you. The coalition has no intention of owning or running

Iraq... our goal is to restore stability," as US helicopters hovered overhead.

"The coalition will stay as long as is necessary to do that and not one day longer," he said.

Rumsfeld added, "You can form an interim government on your own, a free Iraqi government, a government of your choosing, a government that is of Iraqi design."

But while awaiting "a free Iraqi government, based on political freedom, individual liberty and the rule of law," he also told US troops there was "still work to be done," including hunting down members of Saddam's toppled regime and rooting out and eliminating "the terrorist networks operating in this country."

Rumsfeld's triumphant tone was overshadowed by the second fatal US shooting in Fallujah in just three days.

Doctors and eyewitnesses said three people were killed Wednesday when troops fired on thousands of people demonstrating against a shooting that had already left 13 dead at a pro-Saddam rally on Monday.

US military authorities said that each time they had acted in self-defense, but locals denied the troops had been fired on.

Muslim religious leaders in Fallujah said they had asked US forces to pull back from the city, while in Baghdad, residents vowed that anti-US demonstrations, which appeared to be on the rise, would carry on. **AFP**

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US Navy yields, exits Vieques after 60 years

WASHINGTON—After pummeling the Caribbean island with gunfire for 60 years, the US Navy has made an official exit from Vieques, bowing to pressure from local residents who complain about damage to their health.

"The Department of the Navy... has transferred all real property on the eastern end of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Interior," the military said Wednesday in a terse statement.

Under the plan, the Navy will continue an environmental cleanup of Vieques, which was used as a bombing and artillery range and where US marines routinely practiced amphibious landings.

The Department of Interior will transform the territory into a wildlife refuge, spending on the project \$2.3 million this year alone.

Protests against US military exercises on the island, whose population is about 9,000 people, had been increasing since 1999, when a stray bomb dropped by a US warplane killed a Puerto Rican guard.

Conscious of likely political implications of the unrest, President George W. Bush promised in 2001 that the Pentagon would withdraw from Vieques by May of 2003.

That same year, the movement for a Navy-free Vieques scored another victory when 68 percent of the islanders voted in a non-binding referendum for the Navy's departure.

Speaking at a rally marking the Navy's departure, Puerto Rico Governor Sila Calderon said the event marked the end of an era.

"Its people have sacrificed themselves for decades," said the governor, who was greeted by cheers and loud applause from the islanders. "We should wait no longer to do them justice."

An even bigger celebration is scheduled on the island for Thursday.

US civil rights leader and Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton, who spent three months in prison in 2001 for trespassing on Navy property during one of the protests, will be one of the guests of honor. **AFP**

Another bizarre cult spurs concern in Japan

TOKYO—Japanese police said Thursday they were ready to crack down on a bizarre "white-costume" cult which has stirred unease among local people by occupying a public road and shrouding the surrounding area with mysterious white screens.

Police started questioning white-clad members of the Pana Wave Laboratory cult who, since last Friday have been occupying a 200-meter stretch of a mountain road with a caravan of 15 white-shrouded cars and vans in Gifu, some 300 km west of Tokyo.

The local authority on Wednesday issued an expulsion order to the cult, which claims the earth is in danger because of electromagnetic waves used with evil intent by communists, according to its website.

But the doomsday sect, whose membership is believed to top 1,200, refused to move immediately, only saying the group may move on this weekend.

"It is clear that local residents have trouble with their road occupation and their presence has brought fear to residents," said a spokesperson for the Gifu Police Department.

"We are going to strictly deal with the case by utilizing every possible regulation," the police spokesperson said. Television footage showed police officers questioning the sect members and examining their vehicles Thursday afternoon.

There were 250 police at the scene according to one channel, NTV.

This was the first major confrontation between a cult and local

government in Japan since the Aum Supreme Truth, the cult responsible for the 1995 subway sarin nerve gas attack, illegally built a compound housing a chemical plant on the slopes of Mt. Fuji.

Wearing surgical-style white robes, headgear and facemasks, the Pana Wave members have erected white fabric screens along the roadside, and wrapped nearby guardrails and tree trunks in white, claiming that white cloth can help them avoid being exposed to harmful electromagnetic waves.

All of their vans are also white and covered with numerous pieces of white paper printed with mysterious whirlpool pattern. Television footage showed the inside of the vehicles are also white with the steering wheels bandaged.

Other pictures showed cult members trying to fend off cameramen with large mirrors resembling reflective riot shields.

Hiroko Chino, the 69-year-old female guru, who founded the sect in the 1970s, has moved from one place to another across the nation with her followers in the caravan for the past 10 years.

Over the last few days Japan's television networks have given extensive coverage to the cult and its perceived similarities to the Aum sect, whose founder, Shoko Asahara, has been on trial for seven years for the subway attack and other crimes involving the deaths of 27 people.

Prosecutors demanded the death sentence for the nearly blind Asahara last month. **AFP**

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7. Fold in the blended mangoes or strawberries. Spoon cold cream on top of fruit in each dish.
8. Repeat the process for a second layer.
9. Top it with whipped cream and garnish with chopped almonds.
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Moro groups press OIC reps on UN referendum

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Thousands of Moro people have asked visiting representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to work for a United Nations-sponsored referendum in southern Philippines.

They also called on the Pan-Islamic body to pressure the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to speed up the Mindanao peace process to end the bloodshed and rehabilitate war-torn communities on the island.

Jaafar Ali, Muslim religious leader and chair of the Coalition of Bangsamoro for Peace and Justice, said the group that joined the rally held at the Cotabato City plaza on Wednesday wanted the

OIC to play an active role in the holding of the referendum.

"A UN-sponsored referendum will clear once and for all what is destined for Muslims in southern Philippines," he said.

While Ali did not say what the participants, as a group, really wanted, individuals interviewed by the INQUIRER said they wanted independence.

"Only independence can solve our problem in Mindanao," said a

50-year-old Muslim cleric, who joined the rally.

While preparations for the referendum are under way, the Moro people's rights should be respected, Ali said.

"Authorities should refrain from picturing us as terrorists and responsible for the rash of bombings in Mindanao," he added.

He cited the case of Muslims arrested in connection with the recent bombings in Davao City and the treatment of Muslims in areas dominated by Christians.

"The act of one Moro is not the act of all Muslims," said another rally participant as he denounced the arrest and eventual release of the Tirso Sudang and Undongan Sudang in connection with the

bombing of a waiting shed in front of the Davao airport on March 4.

At least 22 people died in the airport bombing. Sixteen others were killed when a bomb exploded at the Sasa wharf, also in the city, on April 2.

"They [bombing suspects] were humiliated, their rights violated . . . the government must compensate them for the damages and tainted integrity," said Bai Dido Samuang. She said she feared similar cases might happen in the future if the incident remained unchecked.

The OIC representatives, who are here to review the implementation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF peace agreement, would not comment to the Moro proposals and appeals.

MNLF veteran, son killed in Cotabato City ambush

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A Moro rebel-turned-politician and his son were killed in a mid-day ambush here on Tuesday, police said.

The death of Councilor Mindatu Abutazil, 49, of Upi, Maguindanao, a former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commander, and his son Tollah, 17, came at a time when representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Committee of the Eight were in the city to assess the implementation of the peace agreement signed between the government and the erstwhile rebel group.

Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police chief, said the victims and their companions had just attended a seven-day *kanduli*

(thanksgiving) for a dead relative in Barangay Poblacion 8, when two men waylaid their jeep at 12:30 p.m.

"The gunmen flagged down the vehicle and approached us, then they opened fire," said George Mama, the councilor's cousin and the jeep driver.

Mama, who escaped unharmed, said that when Tollah saw his father fell on the front seat, he grabbed the gunman's .45 cal. pistol. He, too, was shot and died while being operated on at a hospital here.

"It's very sad because they just mourned the death of a relative. Now their relatives would mourn their untimely death," said Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Sema described Abutazil as a veteran MNLF commander who joined the mainstream after the 1996 peace accord was signed.

Gov appeals to GMA to release P6.5M for anti-SARS equipment

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Gov. Erico Aumentado has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately release P6.49 million so the province can purchase the equipment needed to operate in the isolation rooms of the government-run hospital in Bohol.

In a letter dated April 28, Aumentado told the President that the equipment would be used to evaluate patients suspected of being Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases.

The governor said the preparations being undertaken by the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial

Hospital (GCGMH) were in line with Ms Macapagal's call for cooperation and vigilance on SARS.

"We have to establish an isolation area at the GCGMH but hospital personnel refuse to attend to suspected SARS patients because, for one, they don't have personal protective equipment to use," Aumentado added.

Bohol is a top tourist destination in the country and thus has a daily flow of both foreign and domestic tourists, he pointed out.

"We need to ensure our readiness to meet any SARS contingency," he added.

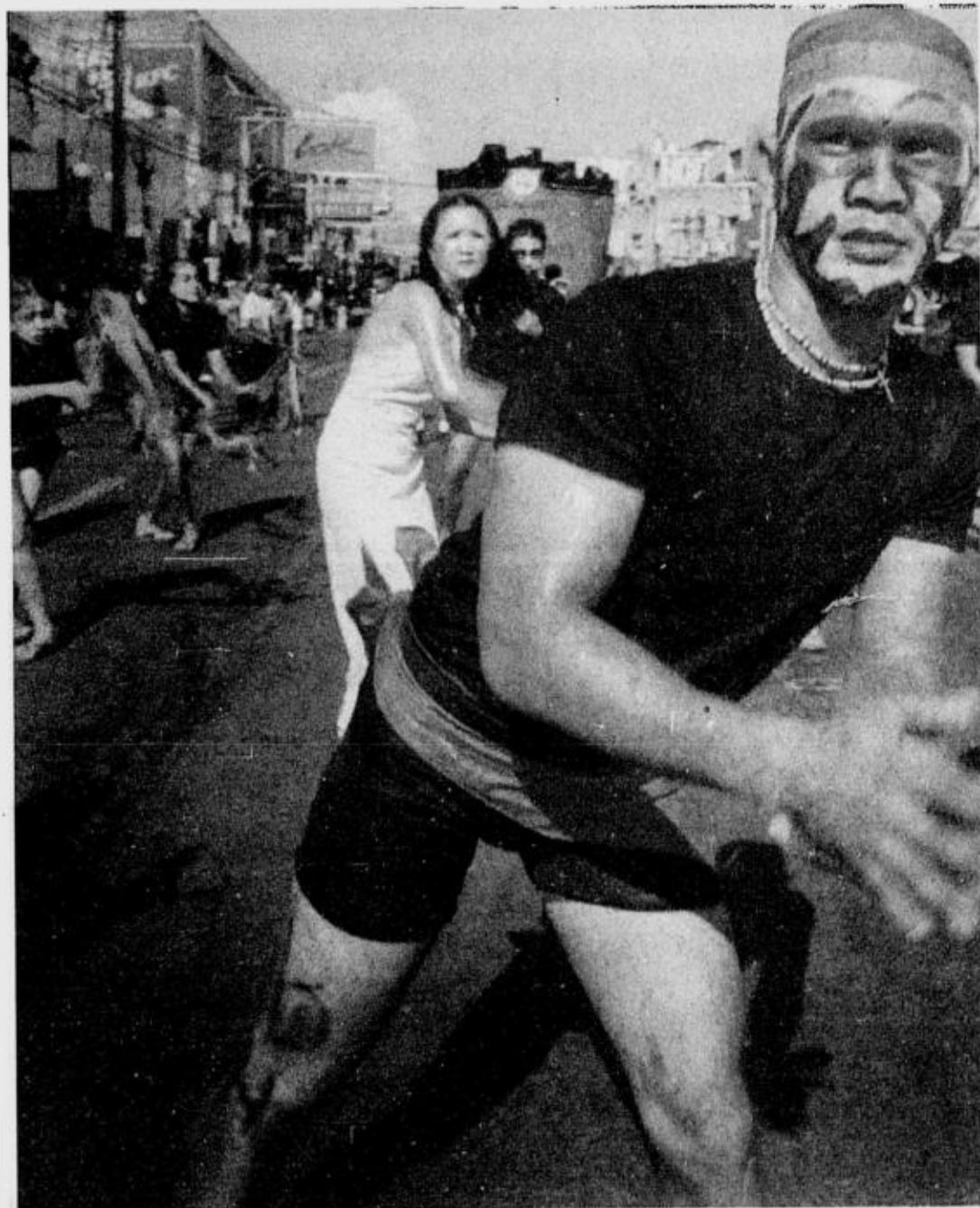
Aumentado attached in his letter a copy of the GCGMH SARS hospital action plan, which was

drafted to ensure its preparedness in case of a SARS outbreak in the province.

Dr. Nenita Po, GCGMH chief, said the action plan would allow the hospital to "manage suspect and probable SARS cases using prepared guidelines and management protocol."

As part of the preparations, the hospital will designate a specific area and provide supplies for the laboratory examination of specimen from patients admitted for SARS.

The GCGMH will also provide the National Epidemic Center with updates of patients being evaluated for SARS on a regular basis.



BANGUS FESTIVAL STREET DANCE

Street dancers give their all in the "Bangus Ed Karosa" parade of floats, which is part of the ongoing Bangus Festival in Dagupan City.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SARS BRIEFS

Barangays tapped in Angeles . . .

ANGELES CITY—The city government's crisis management committee has started mobilizing barangay officials to monitor returning overseas Filipino workers and balikbayan in their respective villages. Mayor Carmelo Lazatin said the village officials were expected to report and help OFWs and balikbayan who are exhibiting the symptoms of the SARS virus. He said this scheme was instituted to make sure that the screening of SARS cases is done at the village level to prevent the spread of the killer pneumonia in this city of more than 300,000 residents. Village officials were also tasked with asking OFWs and balikbayan to go into a 10-day quarantine in their homes.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

. . . and in Tabaco

TABACO CITY—Although the first suspect of SARS here has been cleared, Mayor Alex Burce has mobilized the heads of all 47 barangays here in the campaign to prevent the viral disease from entering the city. Burce also invited doctors from the Department of Health and representatives of other agencies for a briefing with the local officials to discuss the reported SARS incident here and their preparations. The mayor said his office was prepared to allocate funds to be used in the preparations.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SARS 'suspect' surfaces

VICTORIA, Laguna—A suspected SARS case here came out in public and in a press conference belied reports that she had died of the disease. "I'm alive and I don't have any signs of having contracted SARS. My family is suffering because of that incorrect news story," said Ma. Pinky Bautista, 29, a former overseas Filipino worker from Hong Kong. Dr. Ponciano Cayos of the Laguna Diagnostic Center in Sta. Cruz town has cleared Bautista of any ailment.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Church circular on SARS

SAN PABLO CITY—The diocese here has issued a circular directing all priests to observe preventive measures against SARS effective May 4. The measures include refraining from dipping the (faithful's) hands in holy water upon entering the church, and the kissing and wiping the images and pictures of saints, discouraging holding hands during the praying or singing of the "Our Father," and shaking hands as a sign of peace, as well as receiving communion with open mouth. Bishop Francisco San Diego of the Diocese of San Pablo also reminded the priests and faithful about the power of prayer to defeat the scourge of SARS.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Indian to be released

BAGUIO CITY—An Indian missionary, who is confined here for exhibiting the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome symptoms, is "ready for release" nine days shy of a mandatory 14-day confinement, Mayor Bernardo Vergara said here on Thursday. Vergara, in a statement, said he was assured by the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center that the female missionary was well and had tested negative for traces of SARS. "She is ready for release," Vergara quoted Dr. Manuel Factora, BGHMC administrator. Factora and Dr. Florence Reyes, city health director, briefed city officials on the Indian national's condition. "Baguio remains SARS free," Vergara said, "but I will not compromise the health of Baguio residents by promoting city tourism if there are serious possibilities that we can be vulnerable to SARS." Factora told Vergara that the Indian's x-ray plates showed no signs of the corona virus, except for a "viral infection" that had since cleared up.

Vincent Cabraza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Igorot masonry skills needed in Iraq rehab

BAGUIO CITY—The masonry skills of Cordillerans, famous all around for building the rice terraces, will be put to test in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Aida Estabillo, Cordillera chief of the Department of Labor and Employment, said Cordillerans, particularly those in construction and mining, would be needed for much-sought jobs in post-war Iraq.

"We are experts in riprapping and other masonry skills. We are also good in carpentry. These are the skills needed there," she said.

A trade fair will be held here for jobs in Iraq and other places abroad. The jobs are in construction, factory work, caretakers, drivers and gardeners, Estabillo said.

Cordillerans, particularly the Ifugao and Bontoc, are famous for the riprapping as evident in the rice terraces which are now in the Heritage Site list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"I didn't know there's a competency test in riprapping, but I'm sure our people will be very

good at this," Estabillo said.

She also said miners were also needed not because there is gold to be mined in Iraq but because of their expertise in demolition and handling of explosives.

Estabillo said she was not concerned about the statement of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin that Filipinos should not take advantage of the sufferings of the Iraqis by applying for jobs in Iraq.

"It depends on how you look at it. This is ready opportunity for us," she said.

In Iran, after the Iran-Iraq war, the DOLE also sent workers and since then recruitment had been continuous, she said.

"During those times, our competitors in the labor market are Taiwan and South Korea. Where are they now? They are now the ones recruiting our workers," she said. "We should not only be sending workers but enhancing our entrepreneurial program as well."

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cops arrest 6 activists in Mindoro

LUCENA CITY—At least six young activists pasting posters that condemned the murder of two leaders of militant groups in Southern Tagalog last week were arrested by police in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro at the break of dawn Tuesday, according to the party-list Bayan Muna chapter in Southern Tagalog.

Edwin Alog, Bayan-ST deputy secretary general, identified those arrested as Malou Marasigan of the Student Christian Movement, Jose Marie Baquiran, Jason Gargullo, Jeffrey delos Reyes and Richard Avila of the Anakbayan-Oriental Mindoro, and a certain Jhun.

Alog said the youths were pasting posters denouncing the brutal killing of human rights activist Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eduardo Gumanoy when they were arrested by policemen around 2 a.m.

They were released in the morning with the intercession of Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, according to Alog.

Gunmen abduct Muslim cleric in General Santos

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Unidentified armed men snatched an imam (Muslim cleric) here on Tuesday morning, according to a report reaching the police.

The victim, Toti Usman, 50, was abducted while on board a jeepney around 7:30 a.m. He and his friend, Muhammad Gogo, were on their way to the public market,

where the victim works as laborer.

From their house in Blaen village in Barangay Apogong, the two took a jeepney ride but before reaching Silway Bridge along the national highway, a white Besta van suddenly overtook the vehicle and blocked its path, the report said.

Two men wielding .45 cal. pistols alight-

ed and boarded the jeepney, the report said. Two of the passengers who were sitting just across Usman also drew .45 cal. pistols and ordered Usman to go with them.

The van sped away and headed toward the city proper.

Gogo reported the incident to a nearby police station.

Rey Cortez, purok chair of Blaen village, said Usman was a good man and had never been involved in any trouble in the area.

Police were still investigating to determine the motive behind the abduction. **Aquiles Z. Zonito, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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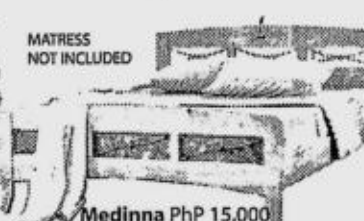
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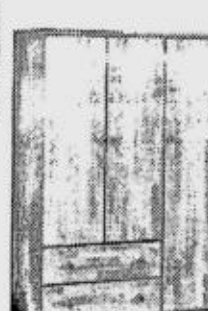
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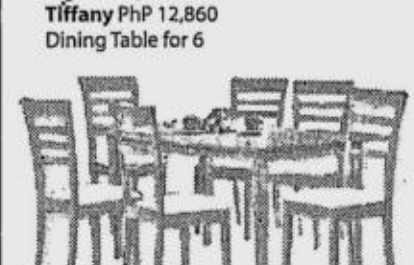
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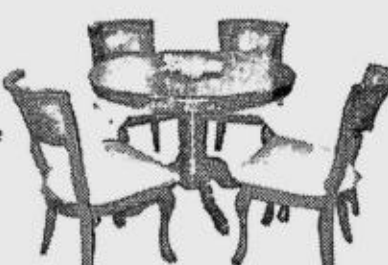
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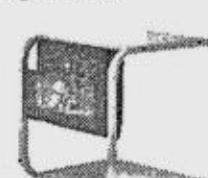


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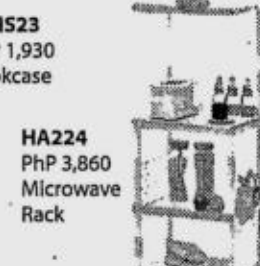
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Storage Cabinet



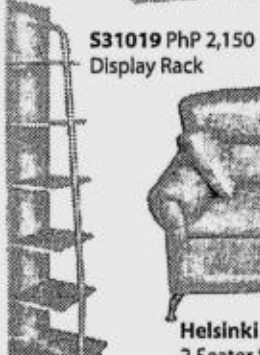
HA229 Php 1,430
Magazine Rack



35H523 Php 1,930
Bookcase



HA224 Php 3,860
Microwave Rack



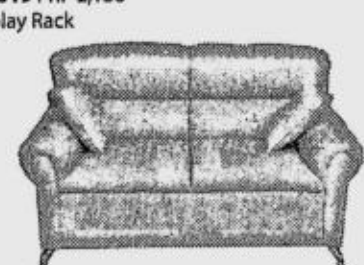
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29th PCS MIDYEAR CONVENTION TO BE CONVENED IN OASIS COUNTRY RESORT, SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION

Surgical Complications Earmarked as Theme on May 9-10, 2003



Dr. Fernando L. Lopez
President

The 29th Midyear Convention in San Fernando, La Union comes about at a time when the weather is sapless, but the winds are soft and refreshing as they blow into town from the South China Sea in the west at nightfall, and from the majestic Cordillera mountain ranges dotted sparsely here and there with so-called Ka-Igorotan endogamous coterie at the crack of dawn. Indeed the Board of Regents of the PCS did not have to look too far away and ahead for an ideal conclave location close by. Last year the midyear convention was held in Bacolod, and quite possibly, many of the surgeons from northern and central Luzon were not able to attend that convention. This time our Fellows from Northern Luzon will have the serendipity of aligning their course and making up for what they had missed and failed to be exposed to last year.

For a thumbnail perspective of the more pivotal episodes that we must bestow upon our minds about our familiarity with this engaging province, is the fact that there existed a quarrel about land perimeters and boundaries between Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan during the Spanish regime, and to sort out the conflict, a royal decree was proclaimed in 1854 converting the sandwiched area into another province, and named it unequivocally La Union. Her people, an inclusive aggregate of hardy, self-determined Ilocanos, have persevered and stood firm through decades and decades to keep the wolf from the door, making many economic inroads into what La Union is today. Chinese traders, who had been there even before the Spaniards set foot in Limasawa, built temples, married our winsome girls, and finally became assimilated into the local culture, collaborated a great deal in developing the province.

In 1898 San Fernando became the headquarters of General Manuel Tinio, and the province helped in the revolution against Spain, which eventually was won by the undersupplied but ironhearted Filipino revolutionaries. In 1899 the early Americans set foot in San Fernando in blind, kill-crazy pursuit of a very nimble, young crafty general from Kawit, Cavite named Emilio Aguinaldo. Again during World War II the Japanese Army ignobly overrun San Fernando, brought the inhabitants savagely to its knees, and in due course committed diverse atrocities and carried out brutal massacres of people whose crimes were never really unravelled, in a nearby town, Naguilian, in 1945.

San Fernando, La Union belongs to the Northern Luzon Chapter, which in 1958, was composed of the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union, Mountain Province, Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela. It was created to further the aim of the PCS,

which is to elevate the standards of surgical practice, and to promote the highest alignment in medical education, and above all, the ethical practice of surgery. It was also created to harness unselfish trained surgeons dedicated to serve our people in the rural areas, especially in the treatment of their surgical diseases, and to eliminate the incursion of charlatans amidst the scientific approach toward health care delivery and the proper treatment of surgical conditions, including teaching our people the essentials of recognizing disease and knowing the proper agencies to go to for consultation and cure.

The first set of officers of the Northern Luzon Chapter - chairman Dr. Fernando Manalo from Baguio City; co-chairman, Dr. Godofredo Reyes from Ilocos Sur; and secretary, Dr. Vivencio Villaflor Jr., from Pangasinan - quickly embarked on the task of assembling its members to have regular meetings, and on first priority, host regional seminars with the motive of keeping the practicing surgeons imbued with contemporary surgical data and advised other relevant directions in the allocation and delivery of better patient care. With the many provinces that are members of the chapter, it was by far categorically straightforward to put up various activities that would benefit and strengthen both ties and practice in each respective town and provincial capital.

The Northern Luzon Chapter has so far hosted six midyear conferences, and is going to host its seventh on May 9 to 10, 2003. In its existence, this chapter has become an old warhorse of midyear conventions, and requesting the pleasure of making it over again an honored host, it has endorsed San Fernando as another venue just as interesting as Baguio City.

Following 38 years of its existence, it was perceived that commuting to the western side of Northern Luzon from the eastern side was rather tiresome and generally disobliging because of poor road conditions traversing the Cordillera ranges, and the lack of satisfactory air travel. The eastern side coastline provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, by a mandate from the Board of Regents, allowed those named provinces to disaffiliate from the Northern Luzon Chapter and henceforth join the Central Luzon Chapter. This leaves the present Northern Luzon Chapter to comprise Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

2003 PCS president Dr. Fernando L. Lopez has fully supported the location of the convention, and Dr. Edgardo R. Cortez, overall chairman of the Committee on Convention has hitched up his working group to establish an exhaustive program that would be relevant to the Fellows who are coming for it. With Dr. Alex



Dr. Edgardo R. Cortez
Vice President and
Overall Chairman
Committee on
Conventions



2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PCS-NORTHERN LUZON CHAPTER

Erasmio, Chairman of the Committee on Continuing Surgical Education describing the parameters upon which to lay topics for discussion, Dr. Harry Supan, chairman of the Sub-Committee on Midyear Convention assiduously burst forth with a thoroughgoing program covering the topic of **Surgical Complications**.

With the teamwork provided by the Northern Luzon Chapter whose president is Dr. Maximo M. Callangan Jr., vice president Dr. Conrado M. Andal, and secretary Dr. Camilo S. Garganta, the convention site was singled out to be the Oasis Country Resort in San Fernando City, La Union and will be held on May 9 to 10, 2003.

In the two days of the convention various surgical complications will be taken up and deliberated by local speakers who are specialists in their corresponding surgical branches. The general and scientific programs embrace the more rife complications that practicing surgeons in the provinces are more liable to confront. The assorted headings are hereby enumerated to guide possible registrants of what to come for and be informed about.

On May 9, 2003, early at 7:00 AM there will be simultaneous "Kapihan sa PCS" talks about **Anastomotic Leak and Complications in Pediatric and Adult Hernia Operations**. This will be followed by the Opening Ceremonies at the Ilocandia Hall and Opening of Exhibits at the Pavillion Complex. At 9:45 AM panel discussions and symposia will be presented covering **Complications of Esophageal Surgery, Complications and Management of Prostate and Bladder Operations, Postoperative Pain as a Surgical Complication, Complications of Surgical Oncologic Procedures, Complications of Plastic Surgery Operations**. While lunch is being served at 12:00 Noon, **Complications of Common Surgical Procedures, and Complications of Anorectal Surgery** will be taken up.

At 2:00 PM a symposium has been scheduled concerning **Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Complications, Management and Prevention**, with simultaneous interactive sessions regarding **Complications of Parotidectomy, Orthopedic**

Complications, Complications of Pullthrough Procedures in Hirschsprung's Disease, and Complications of Thoracic and Vascular Access Procedures.

On the second day of the convention, May 10, 2003, early simultaneous "Kapihan sa PCS" subjects at 7:00 AM will be **Surgical Site Complications, and Ethical and Medicolegal Issues in Surgical Complications**. There will be a postgraduate course on **Complications in Abdominal Surgery: Prevention and Management**, and a workshop on **Strategic Planning** at 9:00 AM. At 12:00 Noon "Tanghalian sa PCS" will discuss **Due Process**. This session will equip surgeons on how to handle and investigate complaints in the hope of strengthening the "self policing" capabilities of the College especially in the light of heightened public awareness on medical practice.

The Northern Luzon Chapter has acquired quite an enviable intimacy and grasp in hosting midyear conventions through the past few decades. It has proudly claimed to have given a glad hand to at least six mid-year meetings, an overt act that even forthwith, has not been criticized for unfriendly welcome, for being reclusive, or for abject fiscal odds. It is expected that, imminently, its vision will replicate to closely match that of its mother organization, which is to be recognized as the lead chapter in its efforts to promote intellectual potency and prestige among its members, and its mission which is, regionally, to ennoble health by promoting the highest standards of surgical practice through continuing surgical education, relevant research, a proactive approach to policy-making, and upliftment of the welfare of its members.

Jesus G. Lizardo, MD, FPCS

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LABOR DAY RALLIES

'No union, no strike' policy assailed

By the PDI Bureaus

ABOUT 2,000 workers at the Cavite Export Processing Zone mounted a rally yesterday, Labor Day, in Rosario, Cavite to protest the "no union, no strike" policy implemented by the provincial government throughout the province.

In a press statement distributed during the rally, the workers also criticized the "bankrupt" globalization posture of the Macapagal administration, as well as its "counter-agency" campaign on the labor front. They blamed the President for authorizing and supporting globalization, privatization and deregulation in the country.

The workers are mostly members of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW).

"Globalization [has manifested] Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's wholesale subservience since she was undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry in 1986-92 and senator in 1992. As a senator, she was the author of liberalization, privatization and deregulation, thereby following the dictates of the US," the statement said.

In other Labor Day celebrations elsewhere, some 600 members of the party-list Bayan Muna marched and held a rally at the Quince Martires Park in Naga City.

In Calamba City, at least 1,500 workers from the Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino staged a three-hour rally at the Calamba junction of the South Luzon Expressway.

Roadblock

In Sto. Tomas, Batangas, police and military men tried but failed to prevent four jeeploads of activists from going to Manila at the Sto. Tomas junction, according to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

Pedro Gonzales, Bayan-Quezon chair, said in a phone interview that the lawmen blocked their way. "The police said the Manila rally had no permit so we have no business (going) there," he said.

Patricio Ramirez, spokesperson of the underground Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, said that "if national unity must be forged to face the challenge of the SARS outbreak, all the more must labor unity be fashioned for workers to confront the epidemic of contractualization, casualization, mass layoff and low wages that are the hallmark of globalization."

The protesting workers assailed the employers' proposal to ban strikes, and the controversial provisions of the proposed Labor Code amendments in wage setting, collective bargaining agreements, contractualization, and the right to strike, among many other areas.

They also called for the abolition of the purchased power adjustments (PPA) which, they pointed out, has remained a heavy burden to low-income workers.

At the Bacoor Rotonda in Cavite, some 500



LABOR'S heavy burden is shared by a market porter (left) in Davao City and a 10-year-old boy in Baguio City.



BING GONZALES/TOOTS SOBERANO

'Southern Tagalog or Calabarzon has become the favorite destination of transnational and local corporations because of the region's cheap and docile labor.'

members of the militant Sanlakas and the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lung-sod (KPML) staged a separate rally.

Southern Tagalog or the Calabarzon area, according to Ferdie Perez of the PM, has become the favorite destination of transnational and local corporations mainly because of the region's cheap and docile labor.

"Many companies prefer the Calabarzon area because the national and local governments provide them the sanctuary for maximizing the exploitation of labor," Perez said.

According to Perez, almost 80 percent of the 850,000 workers in Laguna are not organized into unions, and 55 percent receive amounts below the minimum wage.

Visayas

At least 22,000 workers from the government and the private sectors yesterday joined rallies held in key cities in the Visayas to mark Labor Day.

About 4,000 members of militant and moderate labor groups in Iloilo City, 10,000 in Bacolod City and 3,000 in Cebu City took to the streets to push for higher wages and other demands.

But in Tacloban City, the more than 5,000 workers who joined the Labor Day parade did not seek a wage increase, apparently heeding

the government's appeal in the midst of an economic slowdown.

A Mass at the RTR Plaza in Tacloban preceded the parade, which started around 7 a.m. and was participated in by members of labor groups who wore t-shirts identifying their agencies or offices.

A program was later held at the Plaza Libertad where Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo, concurrently presidential adviser for poverty alleviation, was guest speaker.

Domingo emphasized the efforts of the government to provide jobs and alleviate poverty.

Members of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente held an 80-vehicle caravan from the northern towns of Iloilo to Iloilo City. The contingent drew around 1,500 people who joined the protest actions on the grounds of the Rotary Amphitheater.

The crowd swelled to 4,000 in the afternoon as protesters led by Bayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno and Anakpawis converged.

Ilonggo comedian Cynthia Patag rendered a song about the plight of a working class family driving many of the protesters to tears.

The KMU condemned the proposed amendments to the Labor Code, which, it said, would only worsen the plight of the workers.

The protesters honored Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy. They paused for a few minutes to pay their last respects to the slain activists.

Labor split

The disagreement among labor unions could be seen in the four separate rallies held in Bacolod.

About 5,000 workers joined in the rally initiated by the KMU at the plaza. About a bloc away, members of the Alliance of Labor Reform held their own.

At the Fountain of Justice, about 2,000 attended the rally initiated by the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the Sanlakas.

On Rizal-Lacson Street, about 1,000 joined in the rally spearheaded by the Confederation of Independent Union.

In Cebu City, about 500 members of the Association of Progressive Labor held a rally on Colon Street around 9 a.m. to dramatize their call for protection of the rights of workers.

In the afternoon, about 3,000 members of the KMU and its allied organizations marched down from Fuente Osmeña to Colon Street to press for a P125 across-the-board wage increase for workers in the private sector and P3,000 for government employees.

In Central Luzon, some 2,000 workers joined the rally at the main gate of the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, while some 200 members of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) in Bataan reported they were barred by police from leaving Orani town Thursday morning.

The KPD members were supposed to join a rally in Metro Manila.

Aurora Broquil, KPD Central Luzon spokesperson, said the police put up a checkpoint on Orani's municipal road. "They told our members to get out of their jeeps. Our streamers and flags were confiscated," Broquil said.

In Baguio City, some 300 workers led by the KMU and activists in Cordillera marched down Session Road to oppose the omnibus amendment to the Labor Code, saying the move was unfair to workers.

In the omnibus amendment, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Regulatory Board will be the sole agency to determine wage increases.

Lorico Espejo Jr., KMU Northern Luzon coordinator, called on companies to open more employment opportunities to strengthen the economy. To do this, he said, firms should hire a strong labor force, increase wages and recognize workers' right to form unions. Reports from Romulo Ponte, Juan Escandor and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Vicente S. Labro, Carla R. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

1 dead in Cebu City fire

CEBU CITY—One person was killed while over 200 houses were gutted in a two-hour fire that hit the densely populated Barangay Ermita here on Monday night. Supt. Esmel Codilla, city fire marshal, said Restituto Sorono, 70, was trapped inside his house when the fire broke out at 7:28 p.m. He said at least P7-million worth of property were destroyed. Codilla said probers were looking into a report that drug addicts holding a pot session started the fire. The victims are temporarily occupying the Ermita Sports Center.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Theft suspect collared

CATBALOGAN, Samar—Police arrested a man suspected of being behind the theft of motor engines in his home on Sierra Islands here. Senior Supt. Conrado Calvario, provincial police director, said Vivencio Dagul Lasola, 20, of Barangay Cinco, was arrested on the strength of a warrant issued by a regional trial court in Calbiga town. Senior Insp. Nouie Alonzo, police operations officer, said four motor engines were recovered from Lasola's home. Lasola admitted to police authorities his participation in the theft of motor engines.

Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau

Grenade blasts hurt 6...

CEBU CITY—Six persons, including four children, were injured on Tuesday when a rifle grenade accidentally exploded in an upland village in Danao City, 33.1 km north of this city. Danao police said the grenade might have been left behind by government soldiers or New People's Army rebels during an encounter last year in Sitio San Roque, Barangay Bali-ang, about 7 km from the city proper. P03 Carlo Canseco of the Danao police said one of the children found the grenade and played with it inside the house. Injured were Priscillano Roble, 44; his wife Marilou, 33; their sons Vicente, 14, and Inosentes, 13; and nephews Eugene Roble, 10 and Jenito Daiz, 13.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

...and kills woman

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A pregnant woman was killed after a grenade exploded in her house here last Tuesday, police said. The victim, identified as Teresa Gonzales of Baliuag, Bulacan, was reported to have quarreled with her live-in partner prior to the incident. Gonzales was reportedly alone in her room when the grenade exploded. Her partner denied ownership of the grenade.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Councilor now vice mayor

AGOO, La Union—The Commission on Elections proclaimed third-term Councilor Elizbeth Sheila Milo as the new vice mayor of this town at the close of the tally of votes for recall election held on Saturday. Milo got 9,012 votes while Vice Mayor Ramil Lopez of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino got 6,321. The figures represented about 70 percent of voter turnout. Lopez was on his second term as vice mayor when a municipal preparatory assembly on Sept. 28 voted to recall him on the ground of "wanton neglect of duties."

Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Islamic teacher slain

COTABATO CITY—An Islamic teacher from Datu Piang, Maguindanao was gunned down here on Monday. Police said the killing could have stemmed from a "personal grudge." Muslimin Kasim was waiting for a ride along Macakua Street around 10 a.m. when a man shot him in the chest with a .45 cal. pistol. Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police chief, said his men were tracking down a suspect named Sodin Usman, of Barangay Tukanes here. According to investigators, Kasim was visiting relatives and had just bought several household items when he was shot.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Zoning violators warned

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—City authorities have warned commercial establishments violating a zoning ordinance to relocate or face sanctions. Perla Castellano, acting chief of the City Planning and Development Office, said the violators comprised 10 percent of the total number of business establishments here. Among them were oil depots, livestock farms, beer joints, and other games and entertainment clubs, she said. Under the 2001 zoning ordinance, oil depots were directed to relocate to Barangay Bawing, a coastal village 8 km from the heart of the city. Livestock farms are allowed to operate only on the outskirts, while entertainment places should be situated 200 meters away from schools or churches.

Aquilus Z. Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau

30 new aviation cadets

THIRTY of the more than 2,000 applicants nationwide have been accepted and will train to be officer-pilots at the Philippine Air Force Flying School in Lipa City, Batangas. Training will start on Saturday. Of the 30 new aviation cadets, 28 are males. The cadets, all of them college degree holders, passed the series of examinations given in September last year and would undergo the two-year Officer Pilot Training. After completing the training as military pilots, they will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces.

Drug suspect arrested

LEGASPI CITY—Police on Sunday arrested one of the long-suspected drug pushers and users here. It was the mother-in-law of the suspect, Elpidio de la Cruz Torcat, who reported to the police a "pot session" among Torcat and two unidentified women working in a videoke bar in the city. According to the report, the mother-in-law said it was so "tormenting" for her to see his son-in-law always engaged in pot sessions that she decided to report the latest incident to the police.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute
QUALIFIERS FOR PHYSICS TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS
NAMED

Dr. Ester B. Ogena, Director of the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-SEI), announces the names of the qualifiers for the Physics Teaching Scholarships.

Of the 16,416 examinees who belonged to the upper 5% of their graduating classes and took the DOST-SEI Undergraduate Scholarship Examination on January 19, 2003, sixty (60) qualified for the Physics Teaching Scholarships.

Each qualifier will be notified about the scholarship award. The awardees will enroll at the Philippine Normal University (PNU), Taft Ave., Manila, and are requested to report together with mother or father at PNU for the signing of the Scholarship Agreement. They should bring the following requirements: Original and Photocopy of Birth Certificate, Original Certificate of Good Moral Character, Original Form 138/Report Card, 4 pcs 1x1 Colored ID Picture, accompanying parent's 2003 Residence Certificate and notarization fee of P50.00.

Scholarship privileges include tuition fees per semester, monthly stipend of P3,450.00, book allowance of P1,500.00 per semester, allowance for PE and Military Science Uniform during the first year only, provision for a round trip transportation expense per year and group accident insurance.

Below are the names of the Physics Teaching qualifiers at the Philippine Normal University:

Physics Teaching

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Cabral, Reniel B.
Del Rey, Ammie Grace P.
Dimaya, Danica Angeline P.
Delos Reyes, Lea Ann B.
Canosa, Jonnell C.
Cisneros, Ma. Rosanna E.
Artuza, John Mark V.
Magdalena, Marion G.
Labra, Jay Ann M.
Legarto, Madel C.
Tamisen, Joie Alfred T.
Onpoc, Jose Roman
Pasagul, Eden Troy N.
Galino, Jeffrey R.
Torres, Karole Joseph M.
Francisco, Carlos J. E.
Tundag, Nathaniel G.
Gutierrez, Angela C.
Torio, Von Anthony B.
Romano, Luther F.
Saniel, Suzanne C.
Jubilant, Mark Timothy W.
Beltran, Jay N.
Acuña, Irene C.
Hawang, Arvin A.
Gelloagan, April Rose M.
Tonito, Mary Grace A.
Marbas, Ivan Art F.
Muñez, Paterno Jr. A.

Physics and Technology Teaching

Baniqued, Ma. Gay Ofalene G.
Lerit, Argin C.
Magdayao, Rensy L.
Eraso, Joel II P.
Montecillo, Andrew D.
Victoria, Marvin S.
Pimentel, Christopher D.
Morales, Juliney Ann L.
Valmores, Jan Darryl M.
Trio, Patrick Janseem B.
Foja, John Edward F.
Lalog, Arby Roxane S.
Alavazo, Jonalyn C.
Bacaling, Mariel D.
Babatuan, Leslie Joie E.
Mempin, Charizza Dominique C.
Miguel, Manuel G.
Tarucan, Rohya C.
Del Rosario, Joseph Carl G.
Rivera, Ross Ann B.
Del Rosario, Roxane Eliza B.
Salonga, Robert Jeremy M.
Viernes, Jestoni T.
Tampas, Caesar Niguitte R.
Villamin, Maria Emma C.
Lindawan, Brent S.
Buot, Kathleen Joy N.
Talaban, Daryl D. J.
Marmol, Erick John H.
Amante, Ma. Virgie L.

The names of the physics teaching qualifiers are also available at the website, www.science-scholarships.ph

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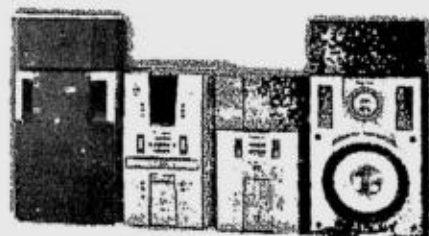
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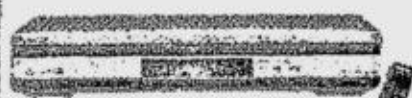

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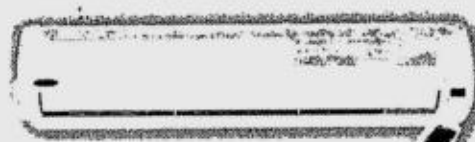
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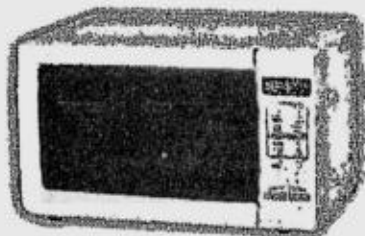
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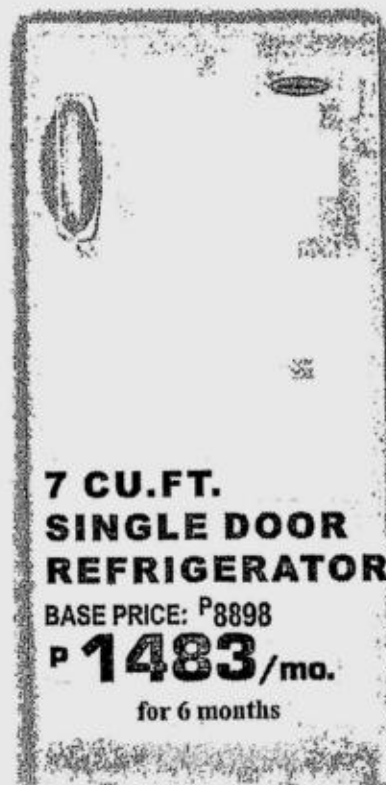
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Vitamins for Beijing Zoo animals

ANIMALS at the Beijing Zoo are being fed vitamins and Chinese medicine as zookeepers explore all methods to protect them from SARS. Lions, tigers and leopards have been given Vitamin C tablets mixed in with their meals of raw meat to strengthen their immune system, while birds are getting Chinese herbal medicine along with their food. Orangutans are being given more fresh fruit than usual. None of the animals in the zoo or the zookeepers have fallen ill.

Surgical-quality face masks, not paper ones, offer the best protection against the SARS virus. Doctors at Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong who looked at precautions taken by their colleagues found that the 13 medical staff who were infected had not worn a surgical mask when caring for SARS patients. The researchers said paper masks were not up to the task of keeping the SARS virus. Two of those infected had worn paper masks. Surgical masks are fabric or molded masks that sit closely against the face and are made to demanding standards for filtering the air of microscopic particles. A commonly used type in this category is the so-called N95 mask.

Tibet was virtually cut off as China sent SARS prevention teams into the Himalayan region amid fears that the killer virus could wreak havoc if it took hold there. The Tibet Information Network said that since Sunday, all international flights into and out of the region had been halted and that border-crossing points were completely sealed. Trucks carrying supplies into Tibet were reportedly being stopped at border points, with goods like rice and other foodstuffs normally transported by road from China not reaching the capital Lhasa. *Reports from AFP*

Doctors find scarring in lungs of SARS patients

DOCTORS in Hong Kong have detected permanent damage, or scarring, in the lungs of some recovered SARS patients.

Scarring, or pulmonary fibrosis, occurs when lung tissues die and are unable to transport oxygen. It usually happens to some pneumonia and tuberculosis patients. The level of disability it causes depends on the extent of the damage. A person with extensive lung scarring may have problems walking up or down a few flights of stairs.

Radiologists at the Prince of Wales Hospital said they found scarring in some recovered patients who had been severely ill.

"We have scanned 20 patients who have been discharged. I've seen a couple. In one, there was obvious scarring which will probably be long-term if not permanent," Prof. Anil Ahuja told Reuters.

Gregory Antonio, another radiologist on Ahuja's team, said some patients had "patchy areas" that might eventually become scars.

"I think there is a very high possibility there will be some scarring ... for most of the patients."

But the doctors were uncertain whether the scarring was due to the disease or the cocktail of the antiviral drug, ribavirin, and steroids used to treat SARS patients.

Ahuja said: "It may be a consequence of the disease or the treatment. They've received high doses of steroids, a lot of oxygen, and that is probably ... (making) a change in the lungs."

Medical experts in China and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have questioned the use of the cocktail treatment in Hong Kong, saying there was no evidence to show it could fight SARS. But Hong Kong doctors say it works for more than 90 percent of their patients.

Doctors said the 12 SARS patients who had been re-admitted for treatment may not have fully recovered when they were first discharged.

David Hui, a doctor taking care of SARS patients, said the SARS

virus was similar to a number of others that take at least 21 days to run their course.

"If you release patients earlier, you run the risk of letting go people who only deteriorate later," he said.

Infectious disease expert Lo Wing-lok agreed but added that the relapses may have been due to secondary infections.

"The patients' immune systems may have been weakened by SARS or by steroids and bacterial infection may then happen," Lo said. *Reuters*

Prepare for worst but don't overreact—GMA

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER telling the people to prepare for the worst in the SARS health scare, the President yesterday asked the public not to overreact.

At Labor Day rites yesterday at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, President Macapagal-Arroyo scored public paranoia over the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus.

Panic is wreaking more havoc on the economy than the disease itself, Ms Macapagal said.

Quoting a World Health Organization advisory, she said wearing protective masks in public places was a "false security blanket." Health workers should wear masks since they come into close contact with SARS patients. But, she said: "Wearing masks every day for ordinary use when one does not come into close contact with a SARS patient, that is paranoia."

The President said people have no reason to fear getting SARS in public places.

To stress her point, she will visit Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, this morning. The hometown of two of the country's three confirmed SARS cases—Adela Catolon and her father Mauricio—came out of its quarantine on Wednesday without new cases being reported.

The President repeated her message in Dagupan City. Quoting a World Health Organization report, Ms Macapagal said only those countries where SARS broke out before March 15 were problematic.

"But in the countries where SARS cases erupted after March 15, there were very few people infected like Thailand and the Philippines, where there are only

three cases reported, because we already know how to control the disease," the President said.

She assured residents of Pangasinan that the disease could be controlled.

The President was the keynote speaker during the first National Bangus Industry Congress in Dagupan City.

Now calmer

The President was calmer about the SARS crisis after meeting other Asean leaders on April 29 in Bangkok, Thailand.

She shared Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's story about how he got his people to attend a major festival despite the SARS scare.

She said Thaksin went to the festival without a mask on and shook hands with the people.

He also offered one million baht (about P1.2 million) to anyone who would get infected, and two million baht (P2.4 million) to anyone who would contract SARS after attending the festival.

Heartened by Thaksin's story, Ms Macapagal said that when she

arrived in Cebu City, she shook hands with arriving passengers including those from China, the country worst hit by SARS.

Also yesterday, Ms Macapagal vowed to take care of health workers who "bear the brunt of sacrifice" to contain SARS.

She related how the leaders of Singapore and China personally acknowledged the service of Filipino health workers who went out of their way to take care of SARS patients.

"Singapore and Hong Kong love our health workers, so we

should be proud of them. So here in the Philippines, we should also love them," Ms Macapagal said.

She said all health workers will be given full protection gear.

The government, she said, "will not take any chances with (their) safety and welfare."

"Let us continue with our lives as long as we have clean habits. There are guidelines (set by the health department) that we must follow. Let's not worry too much but we must be alert," the President told the participants in the Bangus congress.

China's biggest holiday eerily quiet

From page A1

chances. Government appeals for people to give up their annual vacations during the holiday period were taken seriously.

The usually bustling shopping malls and tourist sites in Beijing were empty. Vendors said the last time it was this quiet was after the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy protesters in 1989 when martial law was imposed.

Even if people did venture outside there was little for them to do. All entertainment venues in Beijing and other cities have been shut down. Beijing authorities also decided to close down indoor sports facilities, from swimming pools to basketball courts, for an indefinite period.

Farming communities on Beijing's outskirts manned barricades of dirt and stone to keep out any outsiders who might bring the SARS virus. "Prevention comes first," said an official of one town.

The Beijing Anti-SARS United Task Force reported that 11,282 people had now been quarantined, up about 15 percent from the

9,650 reported by state press on Tuesday.

Rickety system

The SARS outbreak threatens to overwhelm Beijing's rickety health care system. "There is a need for more specialized equipment such as masks, gloves, ventilatory equipment, layer protective gear and ambulances to transport patients between hospitals," World Health Organization epidemiologist James Maguire said after visiting one SARS hospital.

"There are indications that other hospitals in the city are in need of more or better supplies," Maguire added.

It is not just Beijing's health care system that is stretched to the limit. In Inner Mongolia where SARS has claimed 11 lives, construction began on a new 1,000-bed hospital.

On China's southern tip, Hong Kong yesterday reported five more deaths from SARS and 11 new cases. The latest deaths were all men, aged between 34 and 83. Four of them had a history of chronic disease, officials said.

A total of 1,600 SARS have been recorded in the territory since March 12, according to Dr. Liu Shao-haei, Hospital Authority senior executive manager.

He said a total of 834 patients had recovered and had been discharged, but 88 were still in intensive care.

Health officials also said a secondary school with more than 1,300 students and staff would be closed through May 8 as a precaution after a 13-year-old pupil with SARS symptoms was hospitalized.

SARS conference in Canada

World health officials, who are meeting

in Canada, said not only was SARS here to stay, its fatality rate was also worsening as patients who had been lingering in hospitals were beginning to die from the disease.

SARS has killed at least 394 out of the estimated 5,700 people infected in 30 countries.

The health officials from Canada and other countries met in Toronto on Wednesday to examine how to stop the spread of the disease. Canada, where deaths rose from 21 to 23, is the only country outside Asia where people have died from SARS.

Dr. Paul Gully, senior director general of Health Canada, said the consensus of experts from Canada, Hong Kong, the United States and the WHO at the Toronto meeting was that the disease "is something we will have to live with."

Doctors say quickly isolating SARS patients is key to preventing the disease from spreading and quick treatment may help patients survive. Symptoms include a high fever, dry cough and pneumonia, and there is no effective treatment other than good hospital care.

In Geneva, WHO officials said the SARS death rate could rise from its current rate of around 6-10 percent.

"There are a lot of people who went into intensive care and do not seem to be getting better and unfortunately a large number of them will die," WHO's Mark Salter said.

He told reporters that the mortality rate appeared to be higher in places with developed health services, such as Canada or Singapore—something he could not explain. *Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

All solons to wear masks

From page A1

committee on accounts.

The measures include:

- Requiring the chamber's employees, numbering more than 3,000, to wear masks at work.

- Screening all guests entering the House complex in Quezon City.

- Applying fever strips on people entering the south and north entrances of the complex.

- Confining guests who display SARS-associated symptoms in a mobile office to be set up at the lobby.

- Disinfecting the complex regularly.

Barbers said House officials and concerned employees decided to adopt the contingency measures to help prevent the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus. He noted that, at any given

time, there are about 5,000 people in the massive House complex where lawmakers hold session three times a week and public hearings almost every day.

As many as 50 people queue up in every single office of the 217 congressmen, mostly poor constituents seeking help.

Barbers said that just last Wednesday, a poor man from Tondo came to his office to ask for help to bury his mother. When Barbers asked to see the death certificate, he found that the woman had died of "acute respiratory ailment—pneumonia."

"I was bothered because that was akin to SARS and I even shook his hands," he said.

Barbers said he would draw up the plans and the corresponding budget that will be required.

Congressmen won't be averse to wearing the masks during sessions, he added. But they would have to take them off when debating.

10-wheeler accident kills 15

From page A1

Killed were Robert Mamin, the truck driver; Eusebio and Mercy Awayan, and their two children, Jolina, 12, and Dodong; Antonio Paluga, Gersita Morada, Oliver Maramba, Victor Socobos, Giovanni Pasco, Carlito Aguirre, Rosito Madelo, Edwin Perez, Anselmo Doloricon, Luisito Arabiana and a still unidentified passenger.

The fatalities were brought to a local funeral

parlor.

Chief Insp. Antonio Madlos Jr., town police chief, said the victims had spent their celebration in a beach at the Duka Bay.

"They were on their way home when the driver lost control of the truck," Madlos said.

He said 13 people, including the two children died on impact, while two others expired while being rushed to the hospital.

Madlos said that investigation showed the driver was drunk.

M. Cinco Jr., Xavier School coach, dies

MAXIMO L. Cinco Jr., long-time coach and mentor at Xavier School in Mandaluyong and Paco Catholic School, Manila, died on May 1.

He is survived by his wife Pia; children Luanne, Maxie, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Chris, Emily and Benjie; children-in-law Dodo, Rocki, Boboy, Brenda, Richard and Charie; grandchildren Sofia, Gaston, Andrea, Joshua,

Rachel Anne, Anna Therese, Patricia, Nicole, Beatrice and Isabella; sisters Lourdes and Milagros; and brother Jesus.

His body lies at the San Fernando de Dilao Parish Building (beside Paco Catholic School), 1521 Paz Street, Paco. His remains will be cremated on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Paz Crematory, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, after the noon Mass.



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WHO team yields spotlight to Viets

HANOI—When Vietnam won global praise for being the first country to contain a SARS outbreak, staff at the World Health Organization's (WHO) office here were happy to let Vietnamese officials hog the spotlight.

But the WHO's Hanoi-based staff and the WHO emergency response teams that parachuted into Vietnam played critical behind-the-scenes roles in directing the response to the SARS outbreak.

"The WHO in Vietnam demonstrated the vital role the international community plays in preventing a disease from reaping widespread destruction," said Jordan Ryan, coordinator of United Nations activities in Vietnam.

"Under the leadership of Pascale Brudon it was able in a quick, quiet and highly effective manner to get the government to put in place those mechanisms essential to disease control," he added.

The WHO's action did come at a cost.

Carlo Urbani, a parasitic disease expert and the WHO's top infectious disease specialist in Vietnam, had close contact with SARS patients that he was investigating. That contact proved fatal. On March 11 he was hospitalized shortly after flying to Bangkok for a meeting.

Eighteen days later he became yet another victim of the virus.

"The death of Carlo was very difficult. We had been working together for three years and it was a real shock to me because I always thought he would survive," Brudon, a pharmacist by training, said.

"When I had to announce to the office that he was dead—his condition had deteriorated very quickly—this was extremely difficult. But it didn't destroy us.

Maybe in a way it made us even stronger and more determined."

On Feb. 28, Hanoi's French Hospital called the WHO for advice on a Chinese-American businessman who had been taken ill with atypical pneumonia. Urbani monitored daily his symptoms and the subsequent chain of infection among those he came in close contact with. Realizing something was abnormal, Urbani instructed hospital staff about protective measures, including patient isolation, high-filter masks, and double-gowning.

On March 5 Urbani said WHO we inform the government. The following day, the Hanoi office requested WHO headquarters for technical assistance. Over the next two days, Urbani explained to health ministry officials the need to isolate patients, despite the panic it would cause and its negative impact on Vietnam's overseas image.

"On Saturday morning (March 8) he called me and said we need an urgent meeting with the government as soon as possible," Brudon said. "I said to him, 'Can't it wait until Monday?' but he was absolutely insistent."

Brudon and Urbani met with Deputy Health Minister Nguyen Van Thuong, who agreed to WHO requests for a team of international disease control experts to be allowed into the country and for the establishment of a special government task force.

Brudon says the emotional tumult of the last two months has changed her life forever.

"This is the biggest crisis I have ever worked on," she said. "To be at the heart of an outbreak, to have a colleague die, to have all this stress and to be so close to the danger changes something in your life." **AFP**

US Embassy ...

From page A1

Acting US Consul General Tom Allegra said the precautionary measure was intended to protect the 2,000 people who visit the embassy daily to renew passports, obtain visas, or take care of various other matters.

"We take our service reputation seriously," Allegra said in a statement. "While visitors are here, we want to make the environment as safe for the public as it can possibly be."

He said the health checks were aimed at addressing "the public health concerns of the many people who spend time in waiting rooms within the embassy as they conduct business with us."

The screening is similar to those instituted at international airports

and implemented at all US missions in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The intent of the screening process is to identify those individuals who manifest infectious symptoms or who have been in contact with infectious cases so that automatic entry to embassy premises without further investigation does not occur," Allegra said.

Local health authorities have so far confirmed three SARS cases in the country. Two of them have died, while the third has recovered.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has announced sweeping anti-SARS measures, such as giving the health secretary the power to call in the police and military to impose quarantines. **Reports from Norman Bordadora and AP**

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REMEMBERING Edsa 3, thousands of pro-Erap groups stage a Labor Day rally protesting President Macapagal's globalization and anti-labor policies.



PERCHED safely on a window sill (above), a young girl looks down on the raging hordes of anti-Macapagal protesters on Mendiola. At the World Trade Center in Pasay, the object of the protest is mobbed by members of moderate labor groups.

Contrary to cops' fears, May Day free of violence

From page A1

They carried sticks and placards calling for the ouster of the President, the release of "political prisoners" like "former President (Joseph) Estrada and PMAP (People's Movement Against Poverty) leader Ronald Lumbao."

SARS has another meaning for supporters of Estrada. Some of their placards called on the people to cleanse the country of SARS—or Edsa Dos leaders Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Corason Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

However, they did not try to force their way to Malacañang and stopped at the foot of Mendiola, leaving some space between them and the police barricade manned by rows of anti-riot policemen. Malacañang activated Task Force Libra, a composite military and police force, to defend the seat of government.

Folk singer

After the protesters settled down at the corner of CM Recto and Legarda under the noonday sun, several singers lifted their spirits with songs about the poor and downtrodden. Folk singer

Joey Ayala was among the performers.

"PMAP is calling for the immediate ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to end the misery of the Filipino people, particularly the poor," said Cynthia Villar, PMAP secretary general.

Herman Tiu Laurel, Edsa Tres Commission convener, said the police prevented PMAP members from Isla Puting Bato, Parola, Tondo, Manila and provinces north of Manila from going to Mendiola.

After the rally at Mendiola, some 3,000 supporters of Estrada proceeded to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he is detained on plunder charges. They were blocked by members of the Central Police District and the PNP Special Action Force.

At the Liwasang Bonifacio, the KMU led by Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran and newly elected KMU chair Elmer Labog led the lighting of Labor Centennial Torch as a symbol of commitment to uphold the dignity and welfare of the Filipino workers. It also marked the 100 years of observing May 1 as Labor Day in the country.

In a statement, Beltran said the current situation of workers under the Macapagal administra-

tion has worsened.

He also said that there was a "definite intent on the part of the Macapagal administration to repress unionists and attack the militant labor movement which continues to criticize the movement."

Beltran said he was determined to oppose the government's attempts to amend the Philippine Labor Code.

He particularly opposed proposed amendments such as wage hikes every six years; collective bargaining agreements will have a life span and representational effectiveness of six years; labor-only contracting is regulated instead of fully criminalized and punishable by law; monitoring the foreign financial support mechanism of labor groups and institutions.

Labog said the government was neglecting workers' demands. "Instead of meeting legitimate demands of the workers, regarding wage increase, job security, and trade union rights, the government is giving freebies to amuse the workers such as free rides in MRT and LRT," he told the INQUIRER.

He claimed that the workers were facing brutal attacks on picket lines and flexible labor

schemes such as massive contractualization.

Burning of Bush

A highlight of the protest action was the burning of the mural bearing the face of US President George W. Bush with a body of an eagle. The mural symbolized the exploitation of workers.

Organizers said more than 20,000 joined the rally while police said the crowd was between 15,000 and 20,000.

Besides KMU and Bayan Muna, Bayan, Gabriela, Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students (LFS), Migrante International, Anakpawis, Courage, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), Karapatan and other groups joined the rally at the foot of the Post Office.

A stone throw away were some 30,000 members of Sanlakas-PM-BMP and their affiliates, such as the National Confederation of Labor, National Federation of Labor Unions, Kalayaan, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Makabayan and Alab Katipunan, who gathered at the foot of Quezon Bridge in front of the Metropolitan Theater.

A priest from the Aglipayan Church, whose founder Isabelo delos Reyes founded the first la-

bor union in the Philippines, led the invocation before the program.

The PM-BMP-Sanlakas leadership called for changes in the Labor Code, particularly the abolition of the wage board in favor for a "living wage commission," return of the three-year term for collective bargaining agreements, mandatory recognition of unions by management, removal of all restrictions to the right to strike and maintenance of regular job positions.

'Continued neglect'

Sanlakas spokesperson Don Pangan said his group would adopt an "expose-oppose-propose" tactic on the suggested amendments of the code.

"We will expose the ills of the law, oppose all pro-capitalist amendments and propose only changes that will benefit the unions," he said.

PM chair and former party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo, who wore a factory worker's helmet, said labor does not expect anything from the President but "continued neglect."

"We know very well that her administration is merely a perpetration of the elite and pro-imperialist rule in the country.

And this fact is what compels us to unite and fight a common struggle to protect and advance the economic interest of labor," he said.

Asked to describe the state of labor in the country, Magtubo said: "Hard times worsened by labor rights restrictions brought about by a globalized economy."

The protesters sang a socialist hymn adapted to the tune of the National Anthem. The song spoke of the coming reign of the red flag, hammer and sickle—symbols of the socialist movement—in the cities and countryside.

Militant student groups from the University Belt carried pictures of socialist icons Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin.

Manila policemen arrested five youths for waving a flag of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

They were later released. Also yesterday morning, two members of the Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya were hurt during a scuffle with policemen at Delpan Bridge in Manila. With reports from Carilto Pablo, Agnes Donato, Lourdes Valerie Handumon, Dewey Joseph Yap and Charlene Tordesillas

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20,000 bicycles from Seoul

AS EXPECTED, the gift package that President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled on Labor Day didn't include the across-the-board wage increase that workers have been clamoring.

Besides promising a full refund to small consumers of excess charges collected by Meralco, the President announced in her speech before members of the pro-government Trade Union Congress of the Philippines at the World Trade Center in Pasay City that Korean investors had donated 20,000 bicycles and sewing machines for Filipino workers.

The President said that these bicycles and sewing machines, donated through TUCP patron and former Sen. Ernesto "Boy" Herrera would contribute to "our own initiative to increase jobs."

The President also noted that her administration had reduced to 6 percent the interest rates being charged by the Pag-Ibig fund for housing loans by minimum wage earners.

She likewise said that worker-representatives had been appointed to the Pag-Ibig board.

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Cleared of vendors, Baclaran now gets a facelift

By Leila Salaverria

AFTER achieving a measure of success in the drive to clear Baclaran of illegal vendors, the Metro Manila Development Authority is now starting to spruce up the populous area.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando

said the unpaved roads in Baclaran are already being laid over with asphalt and that additional parking spaces are already being designated for devotees of the Redemptorist Church.

He said plans for designating loading and unloading points are also being prepared so that public

utility vehicles would not clog up the roads.

Fernando said the money used for the physical improvements of Baclaran came from the President, who provided him with a fund for various traffic improvement projects.

The MMDA chair also said that

with the physical improvements, he hopes to restore order in chaotic Baclaran.

"People adapt themselves to their environment," Fernando said on Tuesday. "If the environment is in order, the people will act in order."

For 30 years, Baclaran had

been in the grip of congestion and anarchy, Fernando said. But with the success of the sidewalk-clearing operation in the area, the MMDA has turned Baclaran into a showcase.

"If it can be done in Baclaran, (it shows that) we can do it anywhere in the country," Fernando said.

Earlier, Fernando met with sidewalk vendors from at least 20 organizations and asked them to transfer to vacant spaces inside buildings in the area.

Owners of the buildings have been convinced to waive their rental fee for five months and, after that, to keep the fee to a minimum.

Councilor's son killed in Makati

By Leila Salaverria

WITH a flick of the wrist, a man slit the throat of Vincent Pimentel, 38, in Makati City on Wednesday night.

Pimentel, son of Makati councilor Astolfo Pimentel and a resident of Barangay Rizal, went to Mockingbird Street with his live-in partner Carolina Agullana to talk to someone, police said.

A witness said she saw Pimentel walk up to an unidentified man and began speaking with him. Later, Pimentel started to walk away, but the suspect called him back and put an arm around his shoulder.

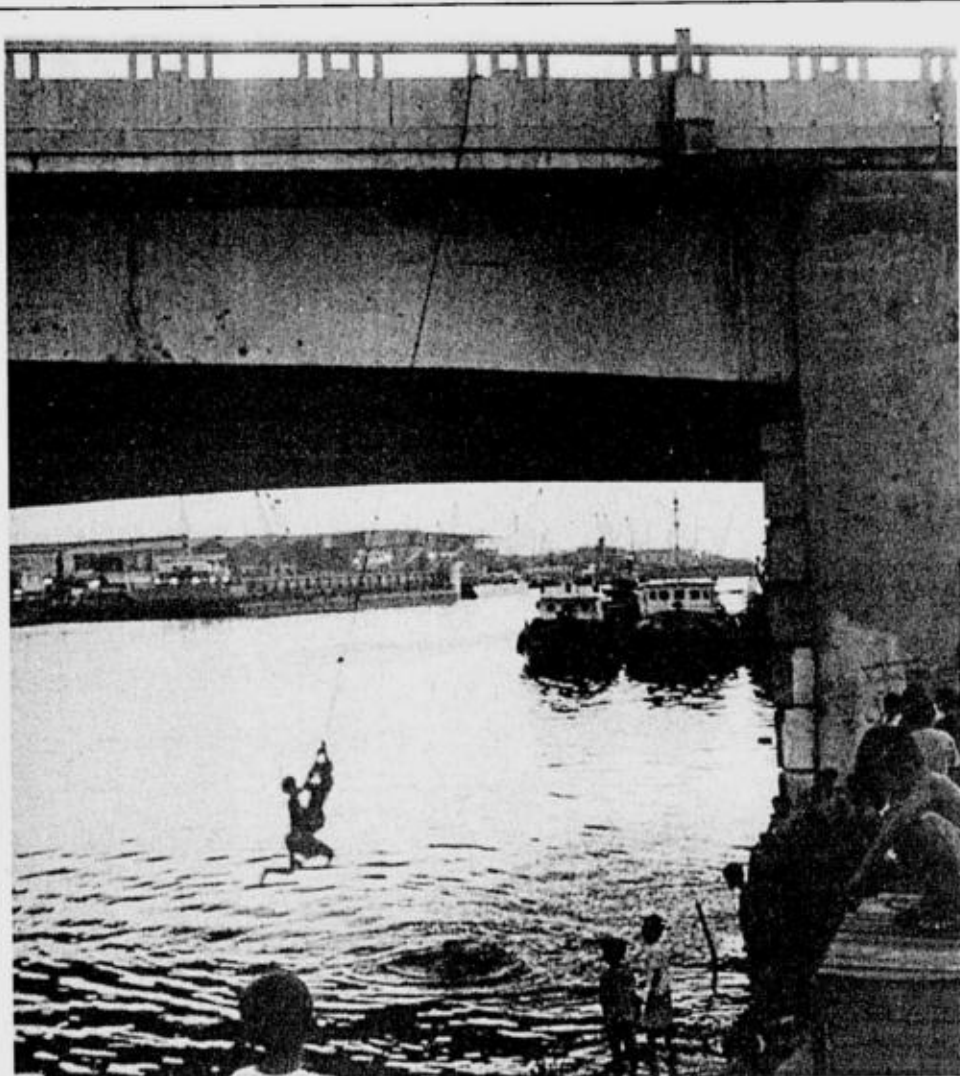
When the suspect took his arm away, Pimentel was left holding his neck, blood oozing from his slit throat.

While the suspect made his escape, Pimentel staggered back to his horrified mate, who took the victim to the Ospital ng Makati. Pimentel died at around 8:15 p.m., SPO4 Leonardo Tintiman said.

Witnesses told police that the killing might be drug-related because Pimentel frequently went to Mockingbird Street, where drugs were said to be sold.

The killer is said to be clean-cut, of medium build, and stands about 5-foot-5, according to witnesses.

Probers have yet to determine the kind of weapon the suspect used. *With a report from Jamie Alarcon*



SPLASHDOWN

Children swing from a rope tied to the rails of the Binondo bridge before making a splashdown in the Pasig River. On the riverbank, other children wait their turn.

VAL HANDUMON

Fire officials rapped over missing trucks

By Alcuin Papa

FIRE District II marshal Chief Insp. Fennimore Jaudian has filed graft cases before the Ombudsman against his superiors at the Bureau of Fire Protection for their alleged involvement in the disappearance of 29 fire trucks.

Named respondents are deputy fire chief for administration Senior Supt. Romeo Villafuerte, Senior Insp. Ruben Pascua, chief of the BFP's NCR-Supply and Accounting Office, Chief Insp. Raul Broca, NCR logistics chief and two other officials.

Jaudian, who was assigned to head BFP's second district in August last year, discovered the fire trucks were missing when he conducted his year-end inventory. He said he ordered his men to account for the missing fire trucks, but was informed that a top BFP official, whom he identified only as Villafuerte, had pulled out the fire trucks because they were useless.

The INQUIRER found out that the Villafuerte Jaudian referred to was Supt. Romeo Villafuerte.

In an interview, Villafuerte denied the charges and told the INQUIRER that the fire trucks were beyond repair.

He said that one of the trucks was already being used by a squatter family as their home.

"As far as I know, those fire trucks were pulled out to be repaired," Villafuerte said. "But we never saw those trucks again. Worse, we cannot find them anymore."

Jaudian, who has jurisdiction over Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, said he later found out that 13 of the trucks were sold as junk for

P27,000 to Compact Diesel Parts Center.

"Each of those 13 trucks costs about P1 million to P1.3 million," Jaudian said. "Even if they were considered junk, they would definitely cost more than P27,000."

He also claimed that the disposal of the trucks violated the Commission on Audit laws and guidelines.

According to COA rules, when government property becomes "unserviceable," the accountable officer must secure permission from the disposal committee of his agency through their superiors.

He also said that the fire trucks are still under the names of accountable officers who will have to pay for the trucks when they retire.

"The amount of the fire truck plus inflation would wipe out the retirement pay of the accountable officers, some of whom would be retiring soon, and even put them in debt," Jaudian said.

But according to Villafuerte, the fire trucks were junk and had to be pulled out.

Villafuerte said that he disposed of the fire trucks according to COA rules and regulations.

He explained that fire chiefs did not need to be informed of the pull-out since the order came from Fire Chief Francisco Senot himself.

"If there was no order, we could not dispose of those trucks," he said.

In a Feb. 26 memo, an official of the Department of Interior and Local Government, which has supervision and control of the BFP, said that Jaudian's complaint "shows that there is an anomaly in the missing fire trucks, which can be better appreciated in a full-blown preliminary investigation."

Sale of NBP property draws squatters

By Christian Esguerra

HORDES of squatters have flocked to the New Bilibid Compound in Muntinlupa following reports that the government property would soon be privatized.

Residents of the property fear that the newcomers would mess up their 50-year struggle to officially own the land, said Cirila Diligencia, vice president of the NBP High School Teachers and Employees Organization.

"We've been fighting for a long time," Diligencia told the INQUIRER. "We can't just allow anyone to kill our hopes."

About 3,000 families have been asking the government to sell them the property at a reasonable price.

During the 1950s, the residents were allowed to stay in the 550-hectare NBP compound because they were government employees.

But with the planned privatization of the area, they fear that they may be displaced.

Their anxiety rose when hundreds of squatters showed up at a meeting with Rep. Ruffy Biazon last Saturday.

The gathering was meant to solicit residents' concerns about the planned privatization of the NBP property.

"We were surprised that they (squatters) were even more aggressive and passionate (about the issue) than the legitimate residents," Diligencia said.

She said the squatters began occupying the Sampaguita area near the compound's boundary

with Victoria Homes three years ago.

Last Wednesday, Biazon assured residents that the local government would not allow them to be driven out of the NBP property should the compound be sold to the private sector.

But he admitted that squatters might complicate subsequent negotiations with the national government.

"Since they're already there, we can't just ignore them," Biazon said. "We also have to secure their welfare."

Traffic scheme suspended

By Leila B. Salaverria

TODAY, Makati City will join the rest of Metro Manila in suspending the implementation of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP).

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the traffic scheme would not be observed in the city today even if only government offices have officially declared a holiday.

He said this is because officials of most private companies will observe Labor Day on May 2, and would be giving their employees a long holiday. Thus, light traffic is expected in the city, home to the country's premier business district.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has suspended the UVVRP for Friday because government offices are on holiday.

The Makati City Council has also passed a bill increasing fines for UVVRP violators from P300 to P500.

In an ordinance passed earlier this week, the council also trimmed the list of the kinds of vehicles exempted from the UVVRP.

Dropped from the list of exempted vehicles are delivery trucks carrying perishable goods, school buses and shuttle services, and vehicles carrying relief goods to depressed areas.

Motorcycles, fire trucks, police patrol cars, military vehicles, embassy vehicles with diplomatic license plates, government vehicles with proper markings, official media vehicles with proper markings, tow trucks approved by the Makati city government and vehicles used by medical practitioners during emergencies are still exempted. *With Jamie Alarcon*



MAY BELLE

Mary Joyce L. Garcia, a candidate in the Miss Philippines pageant, makes that quarter turn with style at the poolside of the Manila Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City.

ERNIE U. SARHIENTO

Summer at the Bridge

THE BRIDGE School, an international learning center for children, has announced its summer schedule.

Summer at The Bridge will be held May 1 to May 23 at the school campus on 29 Cairo Street, BF Homes Northwest in Parañaque from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration is underway for the summer program designed for boys and girls ages 2, 3, 4 and 5.

"Make Mine Music," a special offering for 2003, consists of music and movement classes for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Enrollment is limited.

For all age groups, there will be classes in arts and crafts and dramatic play. The three-year-olds will have an additional course in pre-reading and pre-writing.

For children aged four and five, the summer program will include beginning reading and creative writing.

Registration for school year 2003-2004 is ongoing.

Brochures are available upon request.

For appointments, please call 826-5777 or (0919)480-3164. You may also email the school at thebridgeschool@post.com.



SARS DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

FRIDAY

2 May 2003

Local Execs to take charge of SARS

As per Presidential Memorandum Order #98, Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo orders the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in cooperation with the DOH, to discuss tomorrow measures to contain SARS in the country. The one-day forum, which gathers governors, municipal and city mayors and local health authorities will seek to orient the country's local officials on the SARS epidemic, its transmission, and its preventive measures. The forum will also identify the strategies or activities that they can undertake during the National Anti-SARS Consciousness and Clean-up Week on May 5-9.

Q.

I AM A BARANGAY CHAIRMAN, MY NEIGHBOR INFORMED ME OF A PERSON FROM HONG KONG WHO CURRENTLY HAS A HIGH FEVER. SOME RESIDENTS FEAR IT IS SARS. WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

A.

Think before you act and don't panic. When did she arrive from Hongkong? If she was already here more than a month ago, her fever may not be a symptom of SARS. However, if she just arrived within two weeks and it is only now that she got the fever, call the SARS Hotline (see the numbers below) and ask for their recommendations.

If you're in the Metro Manila area, you can refer her to San Lazaro Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila or the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa. If you're outside Metro Manila, you can refer her to the nearest DOH hospital. They will know what to do with the patient, and not to mention, the contacts she had during her stay.

Reported SARS cases in the Country

(March 17 - May 1, 2003)

SARS suspects, total admitted	68
total discharged	56
still confined	12
SARS cases	3
SARS deaths	2

SARS HOTLINES: 741-7048 / 743-1937 or Type MED<space>SARS then send to 2333 for Globe subscribers or 257 for Smart users or text HOTLINE SARS <space> (Message) then send to 2960 or EMAIL: sars@doh.gov.ph

Free legal aid to victims of investment scams set

THE INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines has agreed to provide free legal aid to overseas Filipino workers, retirees and indigents who have been victimized by investment scams in the country.

Officials of Securities and Exchange Commission and IBP met on Tuesday and had agreed to work together in the Commission's fight against "ponzi" or pyramid schemes.

The IBP will assist the victims in filing cases in the regular courts to recover their investments.

In a presentation to the SEC, IBP officials led by board chair Teodoro Pilando said that there were sufficient laws to prevent the proliferation of investment scams, but enforcement of these laws needs improvement.

The IBP said that the legal remedies available under the present legal infrastructure are criminal prosecution and civil remedies such as class action, consolidation of pending cases and seizure of assets of erring compa-

nies and/or individuals.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista welcomed the assistance of the IBP, saying that the partnership would complement the work of the Task Force of Prosecutors formed by the Department of Justice to speed up cases filed against scam suspects.

She said that the IBP Legal Aid Program would answer the various requests for legal assistance the Commission has received from victims of Multitel, MGG, Tibayan and other investment companies closed by the SEC for alleged investment fraud.

Many victims of these scams are small investors who invested their life savings or retirement pay for high interest rates, Bautista said.

Others are domestic workers like maids and drivers, she added.

Bautista said the IBP had also agreed to be designated as a resource institution during the ongoing hearings held by Congress in aid of legislation against investment scams. *Elena R. Torrijos*



SLUMP

Shoppers will get either a shock or a pleasant surprise when they go to the Tutuban mall in Divisoria. On any given day before the SARS scare, the mall was always crowded with shoppers jostling their way around. Now, it's a breeze to go from one stall to another as many shoppers try to avoid crowded places for fear of catching the deadly virus.

JOAN BONDOC

SC spares Pasig cop, 2 others from death term

Still far from over

From page A24

been suspended for his alleged involvement in the anomalous purchase of an P88-million relocation site for informal settlers in Navotas.

In his two-page resolution, Associate Justice Hakim Abdulwahid ordered the Office of the President, Department of Interior and Local Government and opposition councilors to refrain from implementing Vicencio's suspension order.

After attending a thanksgiving mass at the San Agustin Parish Church, Vicencio, his family and

about 500 supporters trooped to city hall, which was padlocked and guarded by heavily armed Malabon policemen, allegedly on Yambao's orders.

But the policemen's presence did not prevent Vicencio from taking city hall. He stood face to face with the commanding officer of the police, shook his hands then forced his way into the building and went straight to his office.

"I thank the people of Malabon for the unending support they have given me through these hard times," said Vicencio. "My faith in the country's justice system remains strong and firm."

THE SUPREME Court has spared a Pasig policeman and a couple from the death penalty.

The High Court issued two en banc decisions during their session in Baguio City this week.

Saved from the death penalty was SPO1 Rodolfo Regacho of the Eastern Police District, who was sentenced by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court in December 1998 for allegedly selling shabu.

Regacho was acquitted by the tribunal for lack of proof beyond reasonable doubt.

Also spared from death were spouses Arsenio and Vilma Almendras, who were sentenced in November 2000 by the regional trial court of Calamba, Laguna for

the same offense.

But unlike Regacho, the couple was ordered to remain in jail.

In its separate decision on the couple's case, the tribunal said there was lack of due process in the prosecution of their case.

It said the Almendras were deprived of their right to testify because their lawyer kept on absents himself from court.

Regacho had been detained since March 9, 1997 while the Almendras had been detained since June 1998, following their arrest in separate buy-bust operations.

The SC acquitted Regacho due to loopholes in the testimonies of the National Bureau of Investiga-

tion agents who arrested him with 243.94 grams of shabu at Logwood Hotel in Pasig City.

The SC belittled Regacho's alibi of a police frame-up that led to his arrest. He reasoned that he and his companions went to the hotel to transact the sale of a used car.

But the High Court said the policeman's story and that of his friends ably explained their presence at Logwood Hotel other than to sell the prohibited drug.

"The consistency in their separate testimonies surrounding their arrest and the fact that they complement each other constrain us to believe that their version of

the incident holds water," the SC ruled.

The spouses Almendras, meanwhile, did not have the opportunity to testify because of their lawyer's dilatory tactics, the SC said.

Court records show that the couple opted to have the case dismissed by filing a demurrer to evidence after the prosecution rested its case, saying there was not enough evidence to convict them for selling shabu worth P1 million.

The lower court denied the demurrer and ordered them to present evidence, which they failed to do. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Children taught to call spade a spade

By Volt Contreras

THAT BOYS have a penis, and girls a vagina are just some of the things that were taught to the children, aged 6 to 17, who participated in a recent summer workshop by Lunduyan, an advocacy group based in Cubao, Quezon City.

What to call sex organs in both Filipino and English, how they function and how to take care of them also comprise the curriculum of the four-day program called Enhancement of Facilitation and Communication Skills Workshop.

"The child has a right to know all those terms," said youth advocate Jason Sayawan, 23, who himself is being trained by Lunduyan to conduct similar lessons in nearby barangay units.

Like the children he teaches, Sayawan comes from a needy and a broken family. He was forced to suspend his high school studies for five years because he couldn't afford it. Now, he's one of Lunduyan's scholars, and is on his way to a higher education.

"How come it's okay to refer to our private parts in English, while it becomes malicious when we name them in Filipino?"

The point of the exercise is to make children more knowledgeable about their sexual identity and be "comfortable" talking about sex.

"For if they grow up thinking it's obscene and should not be discussed, they may be prone to unsafe, risky sexual practices and behavior," said Allan Nunez, 25, a project manager overseeing the



MEMBERS of the theater group of Lunduyan Center in a street play which the group presented during the recent visit of the Lord Mayor of London Alderman Gavyn Arthur in Manila.

VAL HANDUMON

Lunduyan workshop.

On a more legal plane, such exercise promotes a child's "right to correct information as stated in Art. 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child," according to Nellie Sevidal, deputy executive director.

But the camp also allowed the children's creative juices to flow.

Other sessions were devoted to honing the participants' theatrical skills so that they can later join Lunduyan's own troupe, Dulaan sa Kalye (Street Theater).

Through Dulaan, Lunduyan takes its crusade to the very

neighborhoods considered rife with social ills affecting children.

Staged in plazas, basketball courts and street corners, Dulaan presentations have tackled very adult subjects—abortion, AIDS, child prostitution, reproductive health, drug abuse—with the children themselves as the performers.

"Through street theater, we are breaking the usual norms imposed on the young (regarding sex-related topics)," said Alloysius Gerrardo Ogues, who presides over the theater aspect of the workshop.

Dulaan has also performed be-

fore the Lord Mayor of the City of London Alderman Gavyn Arthur and Lady Mayoress Carole Blackshaw, who were then in Manila for a series of trade-related functions. "I think what is so good (about Lunduyan) is it involves children in helping to decide how to solve problems in the community," he told the INQUIRER during his visit.

"It's not only adults telling children what to do, but children (telling other children what to do). And I think children listen to what other children tell them."

Marikina has new chief of police

By Nelson F. Flores

MARIKINA City has a new police chief.

Senior Supt. Felipe Roxas, a 1981 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, replaced starting yesterday outgoing Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina.

Espina was promoted and transferred to Camp Olivas in San Fernando, Pampanga, to head the police regional intelligence and investigation division.

Roxas is the former police chief of San Pablo City, where he was voted by civic organizations as the city's Best Police Chief.

Sources said Roxas would face the daunting task of curbing the rising crime rate in Marikina.



IWAS SARS PROGRAM

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit (center) with Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez (right) accept the symbolic donation of Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol and Presept disinfectant products from Johnson & Johnson Group Brand Manager Paolo Sitaca in support of the health department's Iwas SARS Program. The products will be used in health facilities nationwide for use by health workers.

Malabon cop chief relieved from post

By Tina Santos

THE MALABON City police chief was yesterday relieved from his post by Northern Police District Office director Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr.

Police Supt. Pedro Ramos was replaced by Supt. Benjamin Cablites upon the request of acting Malabon mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao, said Franco.

He said Yambao had asked for Ramos' relief, saying it would be easier for the acting mayor to work with a police chief that he knows and is comfortable with.

But Yambao denied that he asked for Ramos' relief in a phone interview yesterday. He said Ramos' term had ended.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION/POLITICAL LAW (ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—Statutory construction by an administrative agency given great weight by the court - The PPA is the proper government agency tasked with the duty of implementing E.O. No. 1088. As such, its interpretation of said law carries great weight and consideration. In a catena of cases, we ruled that the construction given to a statute by an administrative agency charged with the interpretation and application of a statute is entitled to great respect and should be accorded great weight by the courts. The exception, which does not obtain in the present case, is when such construction is clearly shown to be in sharp conflict with the governing statute or the Constitution and other laws. The rationale for this rule relates not only to the emergence of the multifarious needs of a modern or modernizing society and the establishment of diverse administrative agencies for addressing and satisfying those needs, it also relates to accumulation of experience and growth of specialized capabilities by the administrative agency charged with implementing a particular statute. [En Banc, Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, The United Harbor Pilots' Association Of The Philippines, Inc. v. Association Of International Shipping Lines, Inc., G.R. No. 133763. November 13, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

SUERTRES

6 8 5
SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
8 5 2 9 7 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

5 10 15 22 34 48

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

MALABON POLITICAL CRISIS

Still far from over

By Tina Santos

SUSPENDED Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday barged his way into city hall to reclaim his post after the Court of Appeals issued a Temporary Restraining Order on his 60-day suspension.

But the political crisis in the city is far from over: Acting mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao has vowed to stay in the mayor's office, and Malabon opposition councilors have refused to recognize the TRO.

The opposing councilors led by Edilberto Torres and the camp of Yambao claimed that the TRO was null and void and had no legal effect. Both Tor-

res and Yambao's chief of staff Melvin Cuevas insisted that the TRO had been rendered "moot and academic after the suspension order was served on Vicencio last Thursday."

The CA Special 9th Division chaired by Justice Mercedes Gozadadole issued the TRO on Wednesday, exactly a week after Vicencio had

STILL/A23



IDLE DAY
A member of the Presidential Security Group rests beside an armored personnel carrier parked in Malacañang to protect the palace from a repeat of the May 1, 2001 riots.

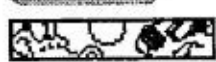
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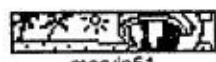
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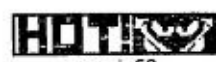
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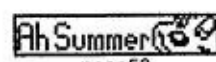
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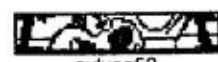
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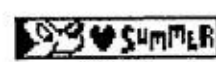
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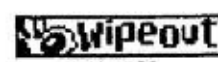
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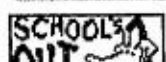


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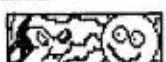


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TEXT CARDS



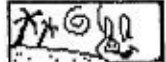
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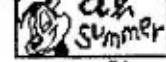
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taz42

WALLPAPER



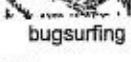
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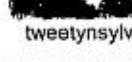
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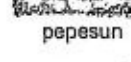
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Hush Corporation
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The Beach Boys
Cliff Richard
Los Del Rio
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SPORTS

Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Wrong turn scraps 6th lap

By June Navarro

MARIKINA CITY—The Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon lost its way yesterday, forcing organizers to cancel the sixth lap and replace it with a no-bearing run ruled by Arnel Quirimit to the consternation of his breakaway partners.

No one among the grizzled officials and veterans of this

bikathon could recall an instance when a lap was abandoned although there were incidents in the past where riders took the wrong route to the finish.

Officials said giant streamers put up by a labor group staging a rally to mark Labor Day yesterday completely concealed the Tour directional signs in Calamba, Laguna, forcing the lead pack of about 30 riders to take the wrong turn 55 kilometers into the

202-km lap from Tagaytay City.

Race manager Paquito Rivas stopped the race when the error was discovered and, after a 45-minute meeting with the cyclists led by Renato Dolosa, decided to keep the individual and team standings of the fifth lap and resumed the run with only the cash prizes for the lap at stake.

"We disregarded the time and retained the standings to be fair to everybody. It was a

collegial decision and everybody agreed to it," said chief commissaire Renato Del Mundo in Tagalog.

Action was fast and furious when the race resumed and when the lead pack dwindled down to 12, the favorites in the group forged an agreement to allow the seventh-running cyclist in the last few kilometers to take the lap.

"We made an agreement that only the seventh man in the pack has the right to get the

lap and the rest should cross the finish line at the same time," said Warren Davadilla, third overall behind leader Mercurio Ramos and Placido Valdez, in Tagalog.

But Quirimit, running fourth overall, broke the agreement as he sprinted to the finish to capture a third lap win worth another P10,000.

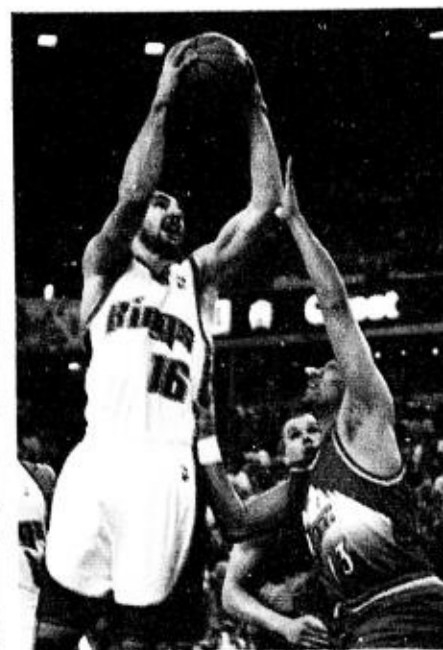
Paolo Manapol finished second to win P5,000 while Reinhard Gorrantes bagged P3,000

WRONG/A26

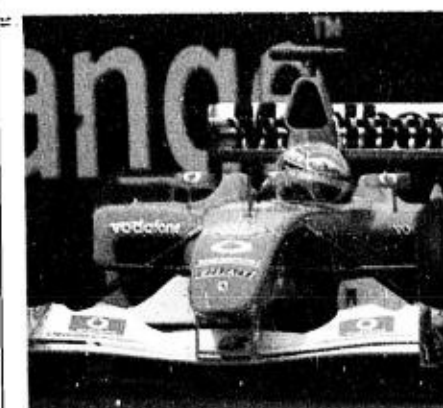
WHAT'S INSIDE



Pinay jumper sets record /A31



Kings are first into 2nd round /A28



Schumacher unveils new car in Spanish GP /A30

Cycling's memory lane /A26

Badminton world tilt called off due to SARS /A28

on stage 2nvt



LAS PINAS 801.7644 MR. ROXY CRO MAGNON NO ENTRANCE FEE

MABINI 525.1474 HEADWORKZ PHYRIGIANZEST NO ENTRANCE FEE

MALATE 521.8143 MUSIC CIRCUIT SAINTS NO ENTRANCE FEE

NOVALICHES 936.9757 J. BROTHERS STREETLIFE NO ENTRANCE FEE

BIÑAN 049.517.268 POWER ON PERFECT STRANGERS NO ENTRANCE FEE

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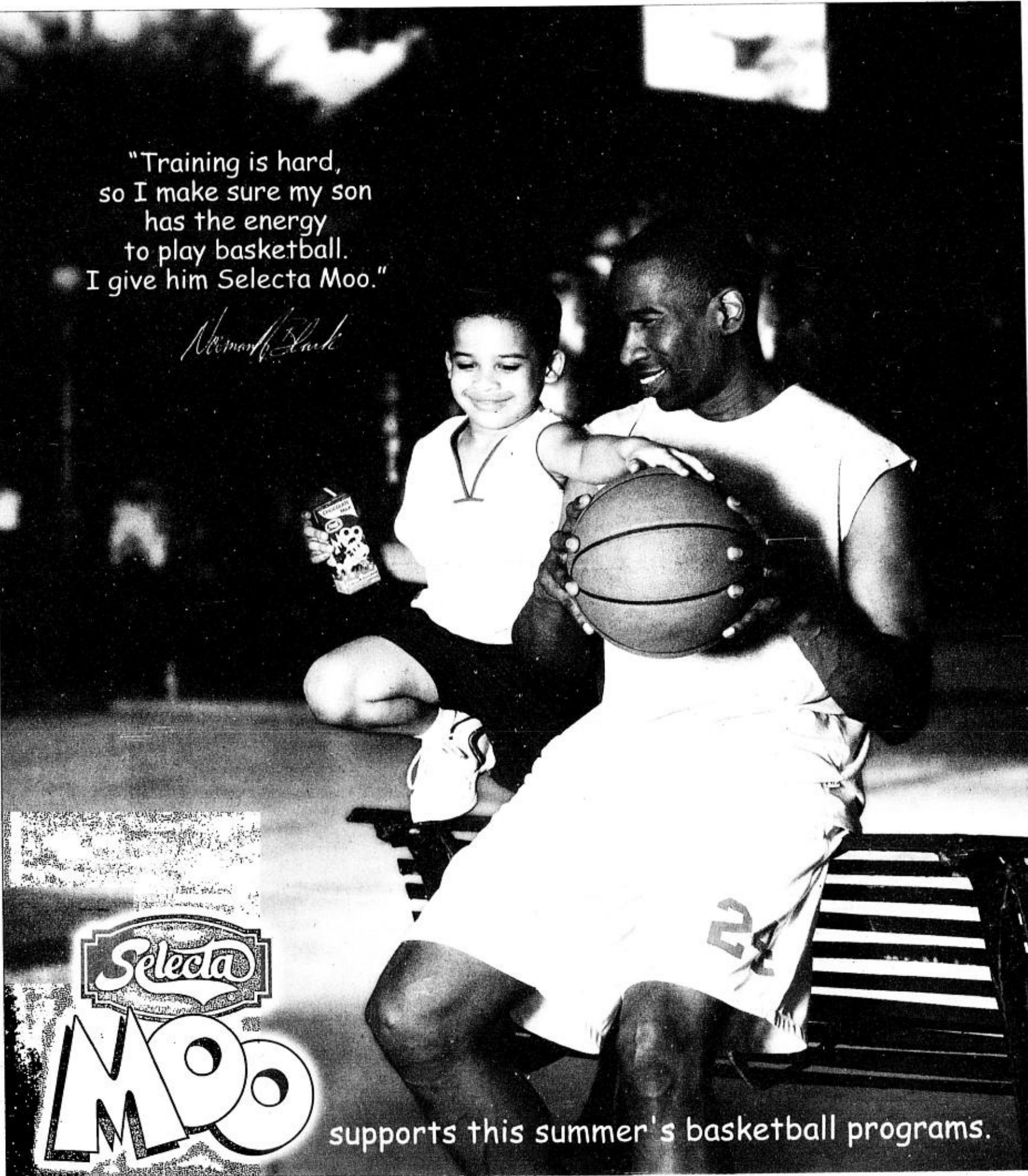
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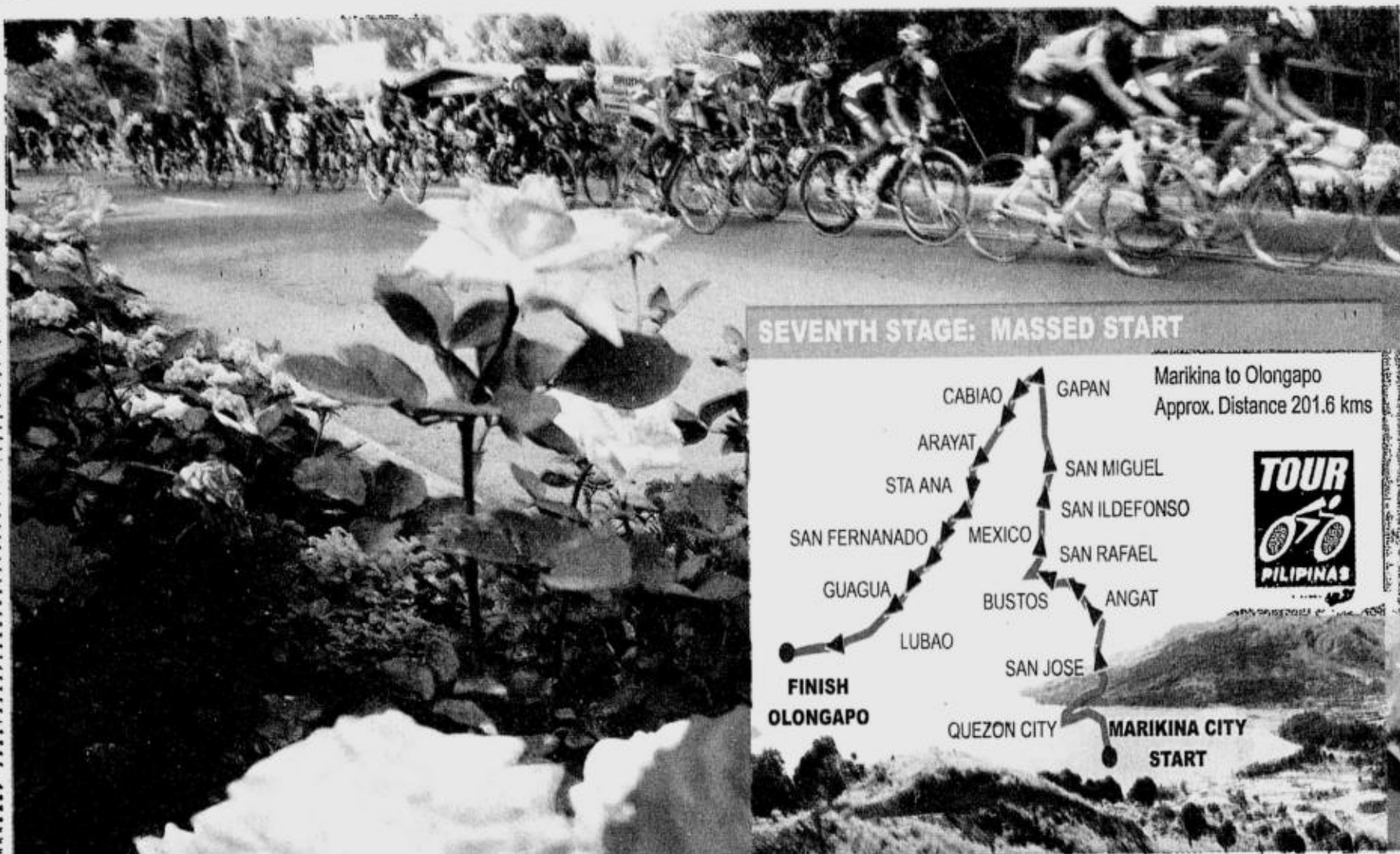
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SEVENTH STAGE: MASSED START



RUN FOR THE ROSES: Probably for stopping to smell the flowers along the way, cyclists took the wrong turn and lost their way, forcing organizers to scrap yesterday's sixth lap.

Overall Standings

RANK	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
1	Mercullo	Ramos	SAM 18h19'51.891
2	Placido	Valdez	DRU 00h01'39.111
3	Warren	Davallia	INT 00h03'31.319
4	Arnel	Quirimit	TAN 00h04'17.629
5	Bernard	Luzon	PAT 00h06'13.870
6	Lloyd	Reynante	PAG 00h06'41.710
7	Enrique	Domingo	POS 00h07'33.621
8	Rhyan	Tanguilig	PAG 00h07'51.750
9	Eusebio	Quilones	PAT 00h08'43.850
10	Fernando	Alagano	INT 00h09'00.340
11	Ronald	Gorantes	ECO 00h10'51.649
12	Renato	Dolosa	GIL 00h10'58.570
13	Frederick	Feliciano	DRU 00h12'23.022
14	Santi	Barnachea	BOW 00h13'01.820
15	Carlo	Jazul	ECO 00h13'05.381
16	Arnold	Marcelo	POS 00h14'59.673
17	Joseph	Millanes	TAN 00h15'21.272
18	Lito	Atillano	GIL 00h16'19.899
19	Ericson	Obosa	TAN 00h19'26.891
20	Paterno	Curtan	ECO 00h20'37.240
21	Alfie	Catalan	BOW 00h22'39.311
22	Danny	Ganigan	SAM 00h24'13.225
23	Albert	Primero	PLD
24	Felix	Celeste	VAT 00h24'53.893
25	Manuel	Mendoza	SAM 00h25'37.234
26	Benito	Lopez	VAT 00h26'58.731
27	Carlo	Guleb	ECO 00h27'08.711
28	Reinhard	Gorantes	PAT 00h27'15.833
29	Navarro	Diamsay	POS 00h27'58.091
30	Sherwin	Diamopol	VAT 00h27'59.200
31	Paulo	Calderon	INT 00h33'30.953
32	Joel	Amar	PAT 00h34'01.874
33	Gerry	Calasay	GIL 00h39'07.539
34	Ruel	Pagnanawon	BOW 00h39'41.554
35	Rolando	Bucay	INT 00h41'15.961
36	Arthur	Espino	PAG 00h45'10.632
37	Arnel	Mendoza	BOW 00h45'15.889
38	Dionisio	Estayo	INT 00h47'17.869
39	Nilo	Guillen	PAG 00h48'13.910
40	Joel	Calosa	POS 00h48'31.960
41	Wilfredo	Gonowon	BOW 00h48'40.640
42	Michael	Bayuga	VAT 00h50'03.801
43	Avelino	Talaver	BOW 00h50'08.192
44	Jeffrey	Galdonez	INT 00h50'40.950
45	Razon	Tolentino	PAG 00h51'39.921
46	Jay	Jacob	TAN 00h52'07.231
47	Dominador	Reyes	INT 00h52'42.411
48	Michael	Del Rosario	PLD 00h56'20.813
49	Noli	Tacu-Tacu	SAM 00h57'42.231
50	Dominador	Rendole	DRU 00h58'57.77
51	Oscar	Muenia	PLD 00h58'58.910
52	Virgilio	Tolentino	TAN 01h00'17.959
53	Eric	Mendoza	PAT 01h01'02.801
54	Ryan	Posillero	PAT 01h03'44.713
55	Dionisio	Valdez	SAM 01h06'43.551
56	Rodelio	Espiritu	ECO 01h08'37.750
57	Virgilio	Fronda	PLD 01h08'58.020
58	Oscar	Villanueva	PAG 01h09'23.370
59	June	Bacudo	PLD 01h09'37.930
60	Jesse	Garcia	TAN 01h09'47.351
61	Jesus	Robosa	VAT 01h12'55.273
62	Marcel	Mapa	BOW 01h13'00.540
63	Alfredo	Aslado	POS 01h13'44.102
64	Gerard	Aslador	SAM 01h14'18.263
65	Garry	Delacruz	DRU 01h18'02.011
66	Art	Espiritu	TAN 01h18'58.150
67	Oscar	Asuncion	GIL 01h19'34.561
68	Reynaldo	Marmol	GIL 01h20'24.009
69	Benigno	Servino	PAT 01h28'34.921
70	Joseph	Atizado	DRU 01h30'40.610
71	Norberto	Villaver	VAT 01h48'10.261
72	Robert	Ladra	ECO 01h48'32.539
73	Hilario	Bautista	PLD 01h55'28.161
74	Roque	Barrantes	DRU 02h01'34.620
75	Jacky	Primero	GIL 02h03'19.64
76	Michael	Hardin	GIL 02h08'28.430
77	Desi	Austria	PLD 02h10'09.021
78	Ranier	Esteban	POS 02h13'19.93
79	Rene	Llentada	DRU 02h18'13.290
80	Bernard	Justiniano	ECO 02h23'59.279
81	Michael	Carera	POS 02h26'50.281
82	Sherwin	Aquino	SAM 03h08'02.441
83	Richard		

TEAM STANDINGS

PL	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	INTEL	74h23'17.96	
2	TANDUAY	74h27'32.13	00h04'14.17
3	RHUM RIDERS		
4	ECO SAVERS	74h31'10.54	00h07'52.58
5	PATROL 117	74h35'42.99	00h12'25.02
6	PAGCORSPORTS	74h36'38.30	00h13'20.33
7	SAMSUNG	74h39'20.05	00h16'02.08
8	POSTMEN	74h45'26.93	00h22'08.96
9	VAT RIDERS	74h57'42.62	00h34'24.65
10	BOWLING GOLD	75h01'48.11	00h38'30.14
11	DRUG BUSTERS	75h14'38.20	00h51'20.24
12	GILBEYS	75h28'40.70	01h05'22.73
13	ISLAND PUNCH		
14	PLDT-NDD	76h20'23.44	01h57'05.47

Wrong turn scraps 6th lap

From page A25

as third placer as the two followed Quirimit home while towing Albert Primero and Valdez.

Out of frustration, Patrol 117's Gerry Amar challenged Quirimit to a fight, but Arnel, who won the first and fifth laps, didn't accommodate him by making himself unavailable for the post-race interview.

The bewildered riders who got lost

took the route to Cabuyao instead of turning right before the Calamba junction on the way to Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Aiding the confusion was the commotion caused by the sea of protesters who had converged at the junction.

Race director Art Cayabyab said revising the route through Sto. Tomas going to Calauan, Laguna was decided to avoid the heavy traffic in Los

Baños and Cabuyao.

"As early as Wednesday afternoon, the teams were already advised that the race will veer away from the usual route. Unfortunately, the protesters and the heavy traffic in the area made the riders miss the markers," said Cayabyab.

The 83 riders proceed to Olongapo City on a 201.6-km lap via the MacArthur highway today.

Manila, Bacolod batters eye better finish in World Series

TEAM Manila and Bacolod City get the chance to improve on their third place finishes in the last World Series after keeping their respective titles in the just-concluded 2003 Little League Philippine Series.

The Manileños swept the Big League girls division (16-18 years old) to earn a return trip to the World Series in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where they wound up third two years ago in August.

The Bacolodnons kept the Junior League (13-14) girls softball title and

likewise booked a berth to the World Series in Kirkland, Washington, also in August.

Dep-Ed Bacolod also retained its titles in the Little League (11-14) and Senior League (14-16) divisions to complete the favorites' romp in the tournament held in San Pablo City and Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Little Leaguers will go to Portland, Oregon, for the annual World Series while the Senior Leaguers will have to meet the Indonesians for the right to represent the region in the

World Series in Jeffersontown, Kentucky.

The boys competition also went according to form with International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) sweeping the Little League (11-12), the Junior League (13-14) and Senior League (14-16) plums.

Tanauan topped the Big League (16-18) category to join the ILLAM selections in the Asia-Pacific elimination for the World Series in Rota City, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, in July. Roy Luarca

Empire Maker is top Kentucky Derby pick

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Empire Maker was installed as the heavy favorite for the 129th Kentucky Derby on Wednesday, remaining the horse to beat despite lingering doubts over a bruised foot.

A convincing winner of the Wood Memorial and Florida Derby, the big colt owned by Saudi Arabia Prince Khalid Abdullah, grabbed the 12th post position and will lead a 17-horse field for Saturday's run for the roses—the first jewel in the Triple Crown.

Trainer Bobby Frankel, looking to

add an elusive first Derby win to his Hall of Fame resume, will never have a better opportunity to step into the winners circle with Empire Maker and another one of his students Peace Rules was tipped as the third favorite behind Pat Day's entry Ten Most Wanted.

A nervous buzz had swept across the backstretch at Churchill Downs on Tuesday as reports began to circulate that Empire Maker was hobbled by a bruised right hoof and might be ruled out of America's most prestigious horse race.

Laffit Pincay retires

HOLLYWOOD, California—Panamanian jockey Laffit Pincay Jr., whose record 9,530 victories in a 39-year career included four Triple Crown triumphs, has retired from horse racing after breaking his neck in a spill.

Pincay, 56, suffered two fractures on the same bone in his neck March 1 at Santa Anita Park after being thrown to the ground when his horse, Trampus Too, clipped heels with Rainman's Request.

The injury was not believed to be serious as Pincay was treated at the track and released. But the pain per-

sisted and an examination revealed the fractures, which required the use of a halo brace.

"It's definitely a sad day for me," Pincay said. "The doctor recommended that I never ride again." Pincay won the 1984 Kentucky Derby, claimed three Belmont Stakes victories and was inducted into thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame in 1975.

Pincay, whose mounts included the great Affirmed and John Henry, still was one of the best jockeys in the country when he was hurt. AFP

Cycling's memory lane

WHAT happened yesterday in the Tour Pilipinas sent me traveling down memory lane.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

It was the Seventies, when Marcos, armed with his ruthless martial law, was at his meanest and the cell phone was still as Greek as the laptop. You know, it was that era when the lone phone in the sala was virtually untouchable to the house help (maid/s). Today, almost every maid owns a cell phone; the gardener, or even the family driver, gets the nasty tag "promdi" if he doesn't own one.

It was that time when the cycling marathon was—and still is, of course—summer's No. 1 sporting spectacle. The "Boys of Summer" I had christened them then in one article—all those hardy souls toiling insufferably under the sun and rain, unmindful of genuine pain in search of genuine fame only a brutal contest like a cycling marathon can genuinely offer.

It was that time when, while covering one such bikathon, the cyclists also lost their way, as did several participants of the Tour Pilipinas yesterday. But that is going ahead of the story.

Back then, who would think cell sites, other than cellulites, would become part of our everyday lives? Why, without the cell sites, how can one from Boac call up someone vacationing in faraway Boracay? Only in our wildest dreams did we entertain thoughts that man can go this far, that with man's insatiable appetite to discover new things, nothing seems impossible anymore that even the guy/gal next to you can be—God forbid—cloned anytime.

And so it was that yesterday, the Tour Pilipinas, pedaling off from Tagaytay City for the 202.6 km Stage 6, lost its way 80 kilometers into the race to Marikina City. (See related story.)

Either some or many of the 83 cyclists (the 84th fell prey to chicken pox and had to quit), missed a turn or two in Laguna, leading to hell breaking loose. Or it could be the lead pack escorts themselves triggering the incident. You know, cyclists either stuck in the lead pack or bunched in the main pack, have vehicles (usually motorcycle escorts) showing the way for them. Rare are the times when some clustered cyclists travel unguided for one reason or another. To finish the day's race trouble-free, they usually rely on wood-and-cloth markers scattered along the route, if not on spectators lining up both sides of the road leading to the finish line.

Since it was discovered—thank God the mistake was unearthed early in the run—that several cyclists made a wrong turn in Calamba, Laguna, officials stopped the race. After weighing all options and establishing that the wrong-turning cyclists were not really at fault, they ordered a re-start of Stage 6. Of course, some cyclists had been disadvantaged by stopping the race, particularly those who made the right turn and were already comfortably ahead. It can be argued, quite correctly, that they suffered from the mistake of others.

But then the question: Was their suffering sufficient enough to warrant the non-stoppage of the race?

My answer is no. For one, the cyclists, who were lost, were not really at fault. They missed markers that were covered perhaps by eager-beaver spectators. Or, markers could have been removed, vandalized, by juveniles.

For another, unforeseen events, at times, mar even the most beautiful presentations man can think of. As broadcaster Benjie Castro said, "It can happen to the best of them."

Cancellation was an option. But that would have been too harsh a choice. Time and money would have unnecessarily been lost. Besides, the discovery of the error happened early in the day. There was ample time to remedy the situation. Thus, the decision to stop it and order a re-start I fully support.

But that one happening in the Seventies that I covered was different.

It was the Tour of Picaa, with the late Tony Kairuz, the bikathon's founder, as director-general.

During that Tour's run from Cabanatuan City to Urdaneta, Pangasinan, virtually all the cyclists got lost. When the error was discovered, it was already too late: Almost the entire field, including the lead pack, was headed to the wrong finish line. The cyclists were mere minutes away from what they thought was the finish line, which was hours or so away from the actual finish line. Amid a backdrop of lengthening shadows, no way they could be diverted back to the right route.

Tony Kairuz (bless his soul) cancelled the day's race. And nobody raised a howl. Not even the "winner," whose name escapes my mind.

That was almost 30 years ago, you know.

Tyson rejects King's offer

LOS ANGELES—Mike Tyson

has rejected offers from promoter Don King and is running out of time to accept an offer for a place on a June 21 fight card here that features Britain's Lennox Lewis.

Shelly Finkel, Tyson's manager, told USA Today that Tyson has rejected King's overtures for a new deal in exchange for settling their lawsuits against each other, cases that go to trial in New York federal court in September.

"I know he's not signing with King. He said he's not signing with King," Finkel told the newspaper.

But Tyson has said nothing about what had been a planned boxing double feature here alongside World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lewis, who will fight Canada's Kirk Johnson on June 21 at the Staples Center.

"I hope it can be salvaged, but I'm not sure," Finkel said.

The fights were scheduled here in part because California officials assured Tyson a license to fight, something he struggled to obtain last year before Tennessee allowed his fight in Memphis, an eighth-round knockout loss to Lewis. AFP



TYSON

F. Alagano 9:00
E. Quilones 8:43
R. Tanguilig 7:51
E. Domingo 7:33
L. Reynante 6:41
B. Luzon 6:13
A. Quirimit 4:17
W. Davallia 3:31
P. Valdez 1:39 behind
M. Ramos 18:19.51

Daily Individual Time Update

2003

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Philippines

National

Conference

May 9 - 11 2003

Cebu City

Waldorf Astoria Hotel

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and Joy to Life

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 9 (Friday)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING

MAY 10 (Saturday)

COMPANY

• Special messages from:

RELIV International CEO

Bob Montgomery

RELIV Philippines Managing Director

Atty. Jolly Gomez

RELIV Philippines National Sales Manager

Glenn Ortega

PRODUCT

• Special Product Announcements

• New Business Tools

OPPORTUNITY

• Workshop sessions with International delegates

• Recognition and Rank Advancements

RELIV Retro party

MAY 11 (Sunday)

THE CARL HASTINGS FORUM

• Presentation of Team RELIV

• RELIV's Kalogris Foundation

• RELIV's Doctor's Forum

With special guest



Dr. Carl W. Hastings

Reliv International Executive Vice President
of Research, Development & Manufacturing
Chairman, Reliv Scientific Advisory Board

Dr. Hastings, known around the world as "Dr. Soy", is the driving force behind Reliv's innovation in balanced nutritional supplements, nutraceuticals and functional foods. He is a noted authority on the use of soy foods and a leading figure in the development of functional foods.

Dr. Hastings owns three U.S. patents for Reliv product formulations. He received his Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Illinois and has spent more than 30 years researching and developing a broad range of food products.

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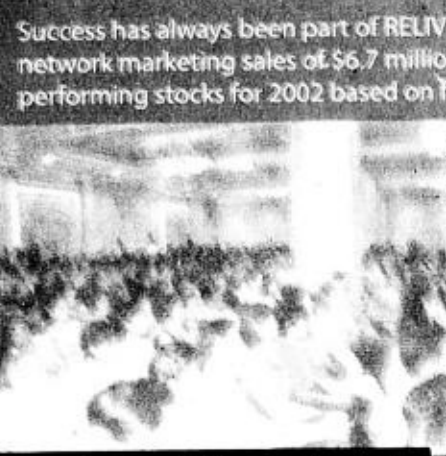
BE PART OF TEAM SUCCESS!

In 2 years time, RELIV Philippines achieved phenomenal success so much so that RELIV International President and CEO Bob Montgomery had only this to say about the company and its distributors:

"In such a short period of time, you've taken that RELIV opportunity and made it happen here in the Philippines. I now believe that you have an opportunity to perhaps even challenge the US in being No. 1"

Such is the promise of the business that continues to grow and deliver its promise to its distributors. In fact, it was just this February that RELIV ended the month with a bumper crop of distributors advancing in levels and receiving phenomenal income to boot! And why not? February 2003 is the month when RELIV Philippines achieved its highest sales ever! This is the best time to come aboard. Nandy and Amalia Estrella, our Bronze Ambassadors from Vancouver, Canada, have this to say about the Philippine business opportunity:

"The biggest RELIV check is going to be written in the Philippines. What we have here is not just a gold mine. This is a diamond mine!"



Success has always been part of RELIV. Just this year, RELIV International, Inc. achieved record marketing sales in January. It reported network marketing sales of \$6.7 million- the highest one month total for RELIV in its 15 year history. It's been named one of the Top Ten performing stocks for 2002 based on figures from NASDAQ, the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange. How can you go wrong with this kind of performance assessment?

There are two distinct strengths that set RELIV apart from other companies of similar nature- products that are unsurpassed in quality and effectiveness, and a support system that allows distributors to utilize the strength of other distributors around the globe to build their own businesses. Most new distributors join RELIV already aware of the power of its products. But what about the system? Simply put, the RELIV Success System is a network of meetings, calls, events and other tools that allow distributors anywhere to connect customers, prospects and new distributors with the stories that are so important to this business. No matter where you are in the RELIV world, the system works the same. Whether you invite guests to a local meeting, tune in to a national conference call or log on to the RELIV website, the RELIV Success System offers access to stories from around the world- stories that provide the information, insight and encouragement you need whenever you need it.

Build your RELIV business now!



reliv® The Good Life

Be part of the team. Be inspired by these success stories!



JAY JAY LIZARONDO

"My First Million in less than a year!"

I learned about RELIV through a random e-mail. It came at a time when I was deep in crisis- my company shut down and I was left with a huge debt. On top of that, my father needed to undergo by-pass therapy. RELIV helped in my father's immediate recovery and this fueled my passion to share the product with other people so they can also benefit from it. I suddenly found myself in a business that keeps on getting bigger. In less than a year, I was able to gain financial stability to the point that I was even able to pay off my debts! RELIV opened the door to local and foreign travel. My earnings now help me fulfill my mission of setting up an orphanage in Mindoro. All this through a random e-mail and a product that gave me more than what it promised!



ANGELA & FRED WILLIAMSON

"Earn more with RELIV part-time!"

We already own a business. RELIV was just a product we consume together with our family to enhance our health and well-being since we don't have any networking experience. We were amazed by the great results of the products that we started approaching people and sharing our stories. This started our path to a business that gave us an unbelievable six figure monthly income! Now, thanks to overrides, wholesale profits and bonuses, we are getting more from RELIV part-time than what we are getting from our business full-time!



ROSE & ALBERT BLANCAFLOR

"No More Money Problems!"

A life of traveling here and abroad with our whole family and incomparable financial security- all that thanks to RELIV! We are enjoying this kind of lifestyle because we grabbed the RELIV opportunity when it came our way. After just three months of sharing the wonderful benefits of the RELIV line of products, we were able to reach the monthly income level that took us 18 years to achieve in high paying corporate jobs. And the product is so easy to sell! Proof of this is that in our first year alone, we were already members of RELIV's Millionaires Club. The year after that, our income from RELIV helped us buy our dream car, pay for our son's wedding, and still have some extra cash to spare! That is what RELIV can do if you bring passion and commitment to what you do. If we can do it, so can you!

Optimal Nutrition Supplement

RELIV NOW Our No. 1 product and the best foundation for a healthy lifestyle. It is a complete nutritional supplement that increases amounts of soy protein, essential amino acids, and healthy fats. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (NOW PATENTED) (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

INNERGIZE Scientifically designed sports drink for total body hydration. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

RELIV NOW FOR KIDS Gives kids a powerful weapon for combating childhood obesity and promoting healthy growth. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

RELIV ULTIMATE A single source of complete nutrition for total body hydration. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

RELIV FIBROSTORE A powerful weapon for combating constipation and promoting healthy digestion. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

ARTHAFF A powerful weapon for combating arthritis and promoting healthy joint function. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

RELIV NOW Our No. 1 product and the best foundation for a healthy lifestyle. It is a complete nutritional supplement that increases amounts of soy protein, essential amino acids, and healthy fats. It is a powerful antioxidant and a natural source of energy. (NOW PATENTED) (P.O. # 116/120/123/133)

Team RELIV: Powered by Essential Nutrition

Team RELIV comprises young individuals who are members of the National Triathlon Team. They personify the benefits of supplementation brought about by using RELIV products for more than a year now. The results? At the recently held Subic International Triathlon Meet, Team RELIV vaulted to the top of competition!

RELIV helped the athletes overcome the travails of their daily practice regimen. Take it from Ani De Leon, a National Champion in the Women's Category:

"The products have blended very well with my bodily and training requirements. As a triathlete, I use up a lot of my energy and this makes me very vulnerable to stress and muscle fatigue. RELIV provided me with the balanced nutrition that I need everyday!"

George Villog is Ani's male counterpart. The National Champion in the Male Category also has good things to say about RELIV:

"RELIV has been there to keep up with my long, arduous training. I have been swimming 15,000 meters, biking 250 kilometers then running 45 kilometers a week- the body can't endure that load! But that's when RELIV comes in. I have a partner all the way!"

And RELIV is just that- a partner in the team's task of bringing sports glory to the country. With that in mind, we can say with gusto, "Go Team RELIV, go!"



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AT A GLANCE



EASTERN CONFERENCE

(1) Detroit vs. (8) Orlando

Magic 3, Pistons 2
 Game 1: Orlando 99, Detroit 94
 Game 2: Detroit 89, Orlando 77
 Game 3: Orlando 89, Detroit 80
 Game 4: Orlando 100, Detroit 92
 Game 5: Detroit 98, Orlando 67
 Game 6 at Orlando (May 3)

(2) New Jersey vs (7) Milwaukee

Nets 3, Bucks 2
 Game 1: New Jersey 109, Milwaukee 96
 Game 2: Milwaukee 88, New Jersey 85
 Game 3: New Jersey 103, Milwaukee 101
 Game 4 Milwaukee 119, New Jersey 114
 Game 5: New Jersey 89, Milwaukee 82
 Game 6 at Milwaukee (May 2)

(3) Indiana vs (6) Boston

Pacers 2, Celtics 3
 Game 1: Boston 103, Indiana 100
 Game 2: Indiana 89, Boston 77
 Game 3: Boston 101, Indiana 83
 Game 4: Boston 102, Indiana 92
 Game 5: Indiana 93 Boston 88
 Game 6 at Boston (May 2)

(4) Philadelphia vs (5) N. Orleans

Sixers 3, Hornets 2
 Game 1: Philadelphia 98, New Orleans 90
 Game 2: Philadelphia 90, New Orleans 85
 Game 3: New Orleans 99, Philadelphia 85
 Game 4: Philadelphia 96, New Orleans 87
 Game 5: New Orleans 93, Philadelphia 91
 Game 6 at New Orleans (May 3)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (8) Phoenix

Spurs 3, Suns 2
 Game 1 Phoenix 96, San Antonio 95 (OT)
 Game 2: San Antonio 84, Phoenix 76
 Game 3: San Antonio 99, Phoenix 86
 Game 4: Phoenix 86, San Antonio 84
 Game 5: San Antonio 94, Phoenix 82
 Game 6 at Phoenix (May 2)

(2) Sacramento vs (7) Utah

Kings 4, Jazz 1
 Game 1: Sacramento 96, Utah 90
 Game 2: Sacramento 108, Utah 95
 Game 3 Utah 107, Sacramento 104
 Game 4: Sacramento 99, Utah 82
 Game 5: Sacramento 111, Utah 91
 Sacramento wins series, 4-1

(3) Dallas vs (6) Portland

Mavs 3, Blazers 2
 Game 1: Dallas 96, Portland 86
 Game 2: Dallas 103, Portland 99
 Game 3: Dallas 115, Portland 103
 Game 4: Portland 98, Dallas 79
 Game 5: Portland 103, Dallas 99
 Game 6 at Portland (May 3)

(4) Minnesota vs. (5) LA Lakers

Wolves 2, Lakers 3
 Game 1: LA Lakers 117, Minnesota 98
 Game 2: Minnesota 119, LA Lakers 91
 Game 3: Minnesota 114, LA Lakers 110
 Game 4: LA Lakers 102, Minnesota 97
 Game 5: LA Lakers 120, Minnesota 90
 Game 6 at LA Lakers (May 2)

End of the road for dynamic duo

SACRAMENTO, California—The Sacramento Kings are moving on, and the Utah Jazz can start wondering what their dynamic duo will do next.

The game probably will turn out to be a historic one. It might have been the final 48 minutes in the partnership between John Stockton and Karl Malone, the Jazz cornerstones who built a perennial winner in small-market Salt Lake City during 18 years together.

Malone, second on the NBA's all-time career scoring list, is planning to look for work elsewhere. He has strongly hinted he plans to finally follow through on his frequent threats to leave Utah to play for a championship contender.

Stockton, 41, could retire altogether. "I haven't stopped to think about that decision yet," said Stockton, who had eight points.

Malone, who scored 14 points, said: "I think the most important thing is that you don't back yourself into a corner at a time like this, after a tough loss."

"You don't want to make a decision you'll regret."

Stockton had been an effective point guard for 19 seasons—longer than any player in league history.

What's more, Utah coach Jerry Sloan has hinted he might be ready to retire after 15 seasons. He's the longest-tenured coach or manager in the four major pro sports. AP

Kings are first into 2nd round

SACRAMENTO, California—Sacramento became the first team to reach the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs on Wednesday, while three other teams had the chance but failed to deliver the knock-out blow.

The Kings defeated Utah 111-91 to complete a four games to one victory over the Jazz in a first round newly expanded to best-of-seven.

They await either Dallas or Portland, after the Blazers kept their hopes alive with a 103-99 victory over the Mavericks to narrow the gap to three games to two.

In Detroit, the Pistons finally played like a top seed, manhandling Orlando 98-67 to stave off elimination.

And the New Orleans hornets were clinging to life thanks to a 93-91 victory over the 76ers in Philadelphia.

The Jazz, however, never looked like forcing another game against the Kings, who led throughout at Arco Arena.

"It was a game we had to take advantage of. We knew Portland beat Dallas, we wanted to get that extra rest," said Sacramento's Vlade Divac, who scored 16 points.

Chris Webber had 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Peja Stojakovic scored 22 points for the Kings.

THE BOSTON Celtics try to finish off third seed Indiana Pacers in Game Six of their first round NBA Playoffs series, live at 7 a.m. today (Friday, May 2). Replay is at 9 p.m. The Celtics lead the series, 3-2.

In Dallas, Rasheed Wallace's second-chance three-pointer with 1:05 remaining lifted the Blazers to their second victory in a row.

The sixth-seeded Blazers became the first team since the 2000 Philadelphia 76ers to win twice after losing the first three games of a best-of-seven match-up. They can even the series with a win at home Friday.

"It's a tough series," said Nowitzki. "It's no

time to panic now. "We've already won one in Portland, and that's what we're going to try to do again—go up there and steal another one." Portland trailed 98-94 with 2:38 remaining after a layup by Dirk Nowitzki, who led Dallas with 35 points and 11 rebounds.

But Zach Randolph made a lane jumper and the Blazers got back the ball. An inbounds play set up Wallace in the left corner for an open three-pointer, which he missed. But the rebound bounced right back to him, and - with 23 seconds on the 24-second clock - he fired another that dropped to give Portland its first lead.

Ruben Patterson blocked a layup by Eduardo Najera and Randolph made two free throws for a 101-98 advantage with 39 seconds to go.

As Nowitzki was splitting a pair of free

throws seven seconds later, Portland coach Maurice Cheeks inserted Arvydas Sabonis. The move panned out as Sabonis tipped in a miss by Bonzi Wells to seal it with 10 seconds left.

Randolph scored 22 points and Wallace added 10 of his 14 in the fourth quarter as the Blazers beat the Mavericks at a bit of their own game. They trailed by nine points midway through the final period but drained four three-pointers.

Energy was the key to Detroit's victory, said Ben Wallace, who scored 14 points and grabbed 21 rebounds for the Pistons, who also closed the gap to three-games-to-two.

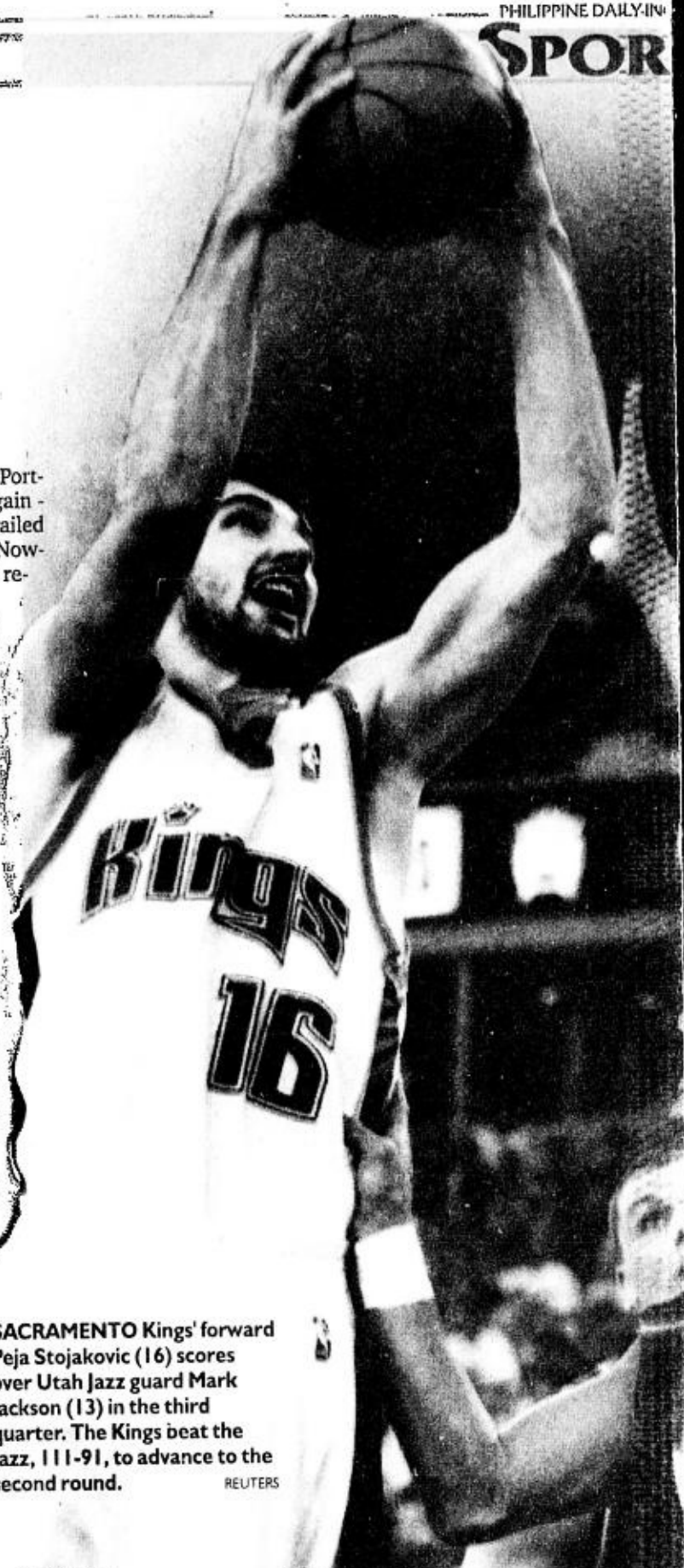
"This time we came out with a lot of energy," Wallace said. "The way we came out tonight, we forced their team to defend us. As long as we keep that energy while the game goes it will be tough to beat us."

Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, Rookie Tayshaun Prince chipped in a season-high 15 points and Chauncey Billups also scored 15 for the Pistons, who never trailed.

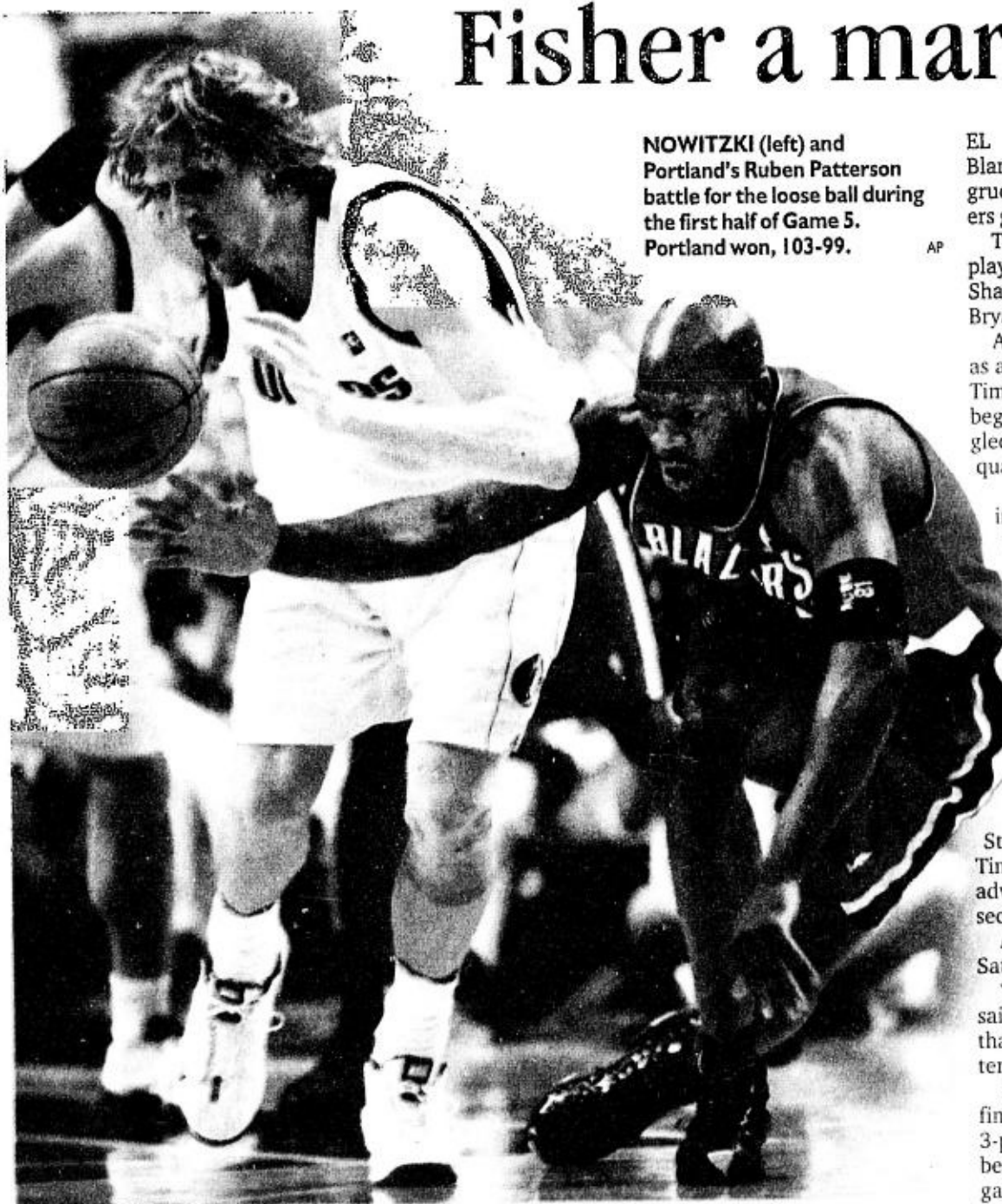
AFP

SACRAMENTO Kings' forward Peja Stojakovic (16) scores over Utah Jazz guard Mark Jackson (13) in the third quarter. The Kings beat the Jazz, 111-91, to advance to the second round.

REUTERS



Fisher a marked man for I



NOWITZKI (left) and Portland's Ruben Patterson battle for the loose ball during the first half of Game 5. Portland won, 103-99.

EL SEGUNDO, California — Blame comes quickly, and credit grudgingly, to Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher.

That's the price he pays for playing with superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

After Troy Hudson emerged as a mainstay for the Minnesota Timberwolves when the playoffs began April 20, Fisher was singled out for not doing an adequate job on defense.

And Fisher's 23-point effort in Game 3 last Thursday night went overlooked because of Minnesota's 114-110 overtime win.

There was no ignoring Fisher's latest performance — he shot 8-of-10 including 5-of-7 from 3-point range in a 120-90 drubbing of the Timberwolves on Tuesday night to give the three-time defending champions a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Game 6 will be played Thursday night at Staples Center, and should the Lakers beat the Timberwolves for the third straight time, they'll advance to meet San Antonio or Phoenix in the second round.

A Minnesota victory sets up a seventh game Saturday in Minneapolis.

"You don't shoot 8-for-10 every day," Fisher said Wednesday. "If we execute offensively like that, I get shots like that, I can shoot a consistently high percentage."

He has before. Take the Western Conference finals two years ago. Fisher shot 15-of-20 from 3-point range as the Lakers swept the Spurs, beating them by 39 and 29 points in the last two games.



FISHER

we've got other gu

straddle the fence. Fisher is 19-of-3 series, making at le anyone in the play

He is shooting 27 15.4 points.

"It really opens

Fisher's long-range : but defensively, he h Hudson didn't sco

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SMART
 SUMMER
 DOWNLOAD SPLASH
 NOKIA

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Bonds homers twice in Giants win

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds hit a pair of home runs and Jason Schmidt tossed a three-hit shutout as the San Francisco Giants blanked the Chicago Cubs 5-0 in National League action on Wednesday.

Schmidt (3-0) struck out a season-high 12 batters while walking two in a complete-game effort to help the Giants snap a three-game losing streak.

He dedicated the game to his mother Vicki, who died from a brain tumour last week.

Bonds belted a two-run shot in the third and a solo blast in the sixth to record his first multiple home run game of the season.

He has 621 in his career.

Bonds has 62 multi-homer games, tying him with Hank Aaron for fourth spot in that category.

Only Babe Ruth (72), Mark McGwire (67) and Willie Mays (63) are ahead of him.

Despite their losing streak the Giants are still off to their best start in 30 years and lead

the NL West.

They also evened their record at 1-1 against former manager Dusty Baker, who is now with the Cubs.

Matt Clement (2-3) allowed five runs and five hits in six innings and took the loss for Chicago.

In Colorado, Adam Dunn slugged his ninth homer in the first inning to pace the Cincinnati Reds to a 13-11 win over the Rockies.

Jason LaRue and Jose Guillen also homered in the win.

Reliever Scott Sullivan (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Scott Williamson gave up a run and two hits before recording his sixth save.

Dan Miceli (0-2) relinquished two runs and two hits in two innings of relief.

In Arizona, Rod Barajas had four hits and drove in three runs to give the Diamondbacks a 7-3 win over the Florida Marlins.

Luis Gonzalez scored twice and drove in two runs and Miguel Batista (1-2) held the Marlins to one run and six hits while striking

out six batters in seven innings.

Matt Mantei converted his fourth save by retiring the final batter.

Starter Carl Pavano (2-4) allowed five runs and six hits in three innings.

At Los Angeles, Odalis Perez pitched 8 2/3 innings of scoreless ball to lead the Dodgers to a 4-0 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Perez (1-1) struck out 11 batters while walking one and allowed seven hits before closer Eric Gagne retired the final batter to seal the win.

Fred McGriff and Adrian Beltre homered for the Dodgers.

Vicente Padilla (3-3) surrendered four runs and five hits in six innings.

In Milwaukee, Orlando Cabrera hit a game-winning home run in the sixth inning to give the Montreal Expos a 9-5 win over the Brewers.

Jeff Liefer also homered for Montreal, a three-run blast in the fourth inning, and Livan Hernandez (2-1) held the Brewers to three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Richie Sexson launched his ninth homer, a three-run shot in the first inning, and Wes Helms added a two-run blast in the eighth.

Ben Sheets (2-3) was tagged for eight runs, six earned, and 10 hits in six innings.

In Houston, Gary Sheffield had four hits, including an eighth-inning home run, to help the Atlanta Braves to an 11-1 thrashing of the Astros.

Chipper Jones was three for five and drove in four runs and Mike Hampton (1-1) allowed just one run and four hits in seven innings.

Complete results:

American League—Boston 5, Kansas City 4; Anaheim 6, Cleveland 2; NY Yankees 8, Seattle 5; Texas 11, Toronto 3; Oakland 4, Chi White Sox 1; Minnesota 8, Tampa Bay 5; Baltimore at Detroit (postponed - rain).

National League—Atlanta 11, Houston 1; Montreal 9, Milwaukee 5; St. Louis 13, NY Mets 4; Cincinnati 13, Colorado 11; Arizona 7, Florida 3; Pittsburgh 8, San Diego 5; San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 0; Los Angeles 4, Philadelphia 0.

Reuters

Badminton world tilt called off due to SARS

LONDON—Badminton's world championships were called off Wednesday because of the SARS virus, postponing a tournament that serves as the main qualifying event for next year's Athens Olympics.

This is the first significant sports event outside Asia to be postponed because of severe acute respiratory syndrome. The championships had been set for May 12-18 in Birmingham, England.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, will consider a recommendation Saturday from its sports medical committee about the future of the women's World Cup. The event is set for Sept. 23-Oct. 11 at various sites around China.

"Several members of the sports medical committee are in meet as soon as possible to consider when to reschedule.

Badminton's best players come from Asia. The world championships were to feature nearly 350 players from 48 countries.

IBF chief executive Neil Cameron cited concerns of a "risk to everyone involved" and of "continued fears regarding SARS." The IBF said several countries were reluctant or unable to send players.

SARS has infected more than 5,400 people in about 20 countries. More than 375 people have died worldwide, with at least 159 deaths in China since November. No deaths from SARS have been reported in Britain.

The table tennis world championships remain scheduled for Paris from May 19-25. Table tennis is another Olympic sport dominated by Asia, with 600 male and female players from 120 nations scheduled to attend the worlds.

Turkmenistan's soccer team decided not to travel to Malaysia on Wednesday for a qualifying match because of SARS. The match was scheduled for Saturday in Kuala Lumpur.

In the United States, the San Antonio Silver Stars of the WNBA canceled their preseason game against the Chinese national team Wednesday because of travel concerns related to SARS.

The game was scheduled for Monday in Austin, Texas.

China, which is not allowed to travel to the United States, was also scheduled to play the Houston Comets, Sacramento Monarchs and the defending WNBA champion Los Angeles Sparks.

akers

her's 15 3-pointers were most ever in a four-game se-

akers coach Phil Jackson the lopsided win at Minn- tra was remindful of the way team played against the s two years ago, and point- specifically at Fisher.

hen it's falling, I think it our team," Fisher said of his de shot. "It definitely felt to have a major part in that last night.

re're definitely a better when it's not just Shaq and

at was certainly the case in esota as all five starters d in double figures.

ve need more than just two I think it shows," Fisher

"If you focus on them, s who can hurt you. If you, haq and Kobe can kill you."

from 3-point range in this t four more 3-pointers than ts.

of-50 overall and averaging

the defense," Bryant said of ooting. "Not only offensively, a great game."

e in the second half after get- opening 24 minutes Tuesday

27.3 points in the first four - nearly double his regular-

2 points — a career-high.

ng really well," Fisher said.

r gets into a rhythm, some- er-what you do defensively.

ifferent things last night that im in the second half." AP

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Schumacher unveils new car in Spanish GP

BARCELONA, Spain—World champion Michael Schumacher said Wednesday that he expects his victory in Imola 10 days ago to mark the championship turning point as he prepares for this weekend's Spanish Grand Prix.

Schumacher won the San Marino Grand Prix just hours after his mother died at a hospital in Cologne and will race a brand new F2003-GA car at Barcelona this weekend.

He is confident that the new machine will extend his winning run and insisted his early season blip, which saw him score just eight points in three races with last year's F2002, is finally over.

"I feel positive going into Barcelona," he said.

"Getting back to winning ways really is a positive thing and it showed that Ferrari is not in crisis. We can look ahead to the next race with confidence."

"At Imola I had the impression that we could repeat last year's trend - that our form could take off with the start of the European races."

"My aim for Barcelona is to match the performance of the F2002 the first time out - and that is a victory. The F2003-GA is a fantastic car and Barcelona will be a good challenge for it." Schumacher was forced to use his old



FERRARI'S 2002 car won't be seen no more with the debut of the 2003 car in the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona this weekend. AP

F2002 car at Imola after the new machine suffered last-minute mechanical troubles during testing and failed to complete the required race distance tests.

But further testing during the week after the Imola victory proved that it can last the distance and Schumacher backed the team for deciding to delay its introduction until they were confident of its reliability.

"I think it was right to wait until Spain to go with the new car because we had to build up more data and gather crucial statistics," he

said. "We are all eager to see how the F2003-GA does on its debut." Schumacher is currently third in the world championship race on 18 points, just one point behind second-placed Briton David Coulthard but 14 points behind leader Kimi Raikkonen, of Finland.

His record at the Spanish track is impeccable. He has finished every Grand Prix at Circuit de Catalunya in the points since 1991, winning the race four times.

He is seeking a hat-trick of victories this year after winning the event in the preceding two years.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso, who drives for Renault, will also be looking for a good performance as he races on home ground for a second time in his career.

Alonso, 21, has finished on the podium in two of the year's four races and is currently fourth in the championship race.

He admitted: "This is obviously a very important race. It's a special feeling to be racing in front of my home fans. It means a lot to me to know that people around the circuit are concentrating on me." AFP

Filipina's trackside view of Formula One racing

THE SIGHTS and sounds at trackside were familiar: the ear-splitting roar of Formula One engines; the screech of tires on the scorching Sepang circuit; and the collective emotion of an F1-crazed nation amid hushed talk of war thousands of miles away.

But the one unfamiliar sight - that of a boyish-looking driver of Mild Seven Renault awash in expensive Mumm champagne in the podium -- was that one that climaxed a weekend of thrills for Formula One fan Nancy Bercasio of Makati's March. A Formula One fan, she won the trip for two to the Malaysian Grand Prix -- including airfare, accommodation, race tickets and pocket money -- in the recent Mild Seven Formula One raffle promo.

She and her husband Stuart arrived on the Friday of that race weekend and immediately took in the sights of cosmopolitan Kuala Lumpur. The next day, she was at Sepang to watch the second qualifying round along with thousands of fans from all over the world. Of course, it was with extra glee as she watched the dynamic duo of Spaniard Fernando Alonso and Italian Jarno Trulli of the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team take the top two pole positions, stealing the thunder from such stars as Michael Schumacher, Juan Pablo Montoya and Kimi Raikkonen.

The 21-year-old Alonso, the team's test driver last year, was himself thrilled to take his first ever pole position and at the same time enter the history books as the youngest pole-sit-



ALONSO: Renault's boy wonder

ter ever.

When the lights turned green on race day, Alonso pushed his car through 56 laps, eventually finishing third behind McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen. All the fans in blue, Nancy included, erupted into a frenzied hysteria as the team's new boy wonder earned Renault's first podium finish since returning to F1 as a full works team in 2002. It was complemented by Trulli's 5th place scoring position.

"I was really happy and thrilled when I saw the team take a podium finish," said Nancy. Although it was not her first time to watch a Formula 1 race live - she had been to the German and Belgian Grands Prix before - the 2003 Malaysian Grand Prix would remain as the most memorable because the team she was rooting for actually ended up in the podium.

Asked about what she thought about the Mild Seven F1 race team's drivers, she said "They're both great drivers and



FORMULA ONE fans: Nancy Bercasio and husband Stuart in Sepang.

very talented. But for just a 21-year old, Alonso did pretty well...and to top it all, he is down-to-earth and very very good-looking...in fact, some of the girls in the grandstand were screaming his name."

The girls in the Interlagos circuit continued screaming his name in the abbreviated Brazilian Grand Prix, but the screams will be loudest when the Formula One show goes to Barcelona for Alonso's home grand prix, the Spanish Grand Prix.

Alonso can show at his home grand prix this weekend why he is rated a Formula One champion of the future, according to Renault technical director Mike Gascoyne.

"When Michael Schumacher first came into F1, it was obvious it was only a matter of time before he won a race, and it's the same with Fernando now," Gascoyne told the BBC.

No Spaniard has ever scored a point in his home race and Alonso, already twice on the podium this season, is the first since 1956 to finish a race in the top three. -- With Reuters report



Purefoods fights for life vs Red Bull

From page A32

slide in the PBA Samsung All Filipino Cup eliminations at the Philsports arena.

The Hotdogs' 5-8 card is the worst in Group A and another loss in the 5 p.m. encounter would push them close to missing the second round.

The Thunder, groping for form after playmaker Jimwell Torion was sacked for the rest of the season for drug use, remain the Group B leader with a 10-3 record despite back-to-back losses to FedEx (81-78) last Sunday and Talk N

Text (98-96) last Friday.

The 7:30 p.m. main game features FedEx against Barangay Ginebra.

The Express are slightly favored over the Kings, who are playing for the first time since an ego-deflating 83-54 defeat from Coca Cola Saturday when the Ginebra franchise tied the all-time low score in a quarter by making just two points in the third period.

The Kings' lone basket in 18 attempts in that period is the poorest field goal percentage ever. Marc Anthony Reyes

Total drug test for PBA urged

From page A32

reckless of any player to indulge in such a malpractice," Eala said.

In reality, Eala said the random drug test on PBA players was reintroduced only during the final conference last year.

Eala did admit he had carefully studied the suggestion of a total drug test but added he would resort to it only if what they are doing now fails to address the problem.

Also yesterday, Sen. Robert Barbers commended the decision of Eala to suspend Torion and Crisano indefinitely.

Barbers said he welcomes the house cleaning being done by the new head of the premier professional basketball league in Asia.

"Commissioner Eala is doing a fine job in trying to weed out professional players in the league who are not living up to their responsibilities of be-

ing role models to our youth," said Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs.

Barbers said the PBA must sustain the strict implementation of league rules.

"I know that one of the reasons why ball club owners join the PBA is because of the marketing exposure they get out of it. But as corporate citizens, I believe that they have the responsibility to assure the public that they get not just good players but athletes who can be idolized in a positive manner," Barbers said.

Barbers, who is also the chairman of the committee on Games and Amusements, will conduct a hearing next week that is also expected to touch on the drug problem in the PBA.

His office said the Barbers committee expects to report on the Fil-Am controversy before the end of the month.

STANDINGS

Group A	W	L
Alaska	8	6
SLR	7	6
FedEx	6	6
SMB	6	6
Purefoods	5	8
Group B	W	L
Red Bull	10	3
TnT	8	5
Coke	7	5
Ginebra	4	9
Shell	3	10

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat



MOTOR SPORTS:

Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying (7:55 p.m.) Star Sports—Michael Schumacher and Ferrari's new car, the F2003 GA, makes its debut on the Spanish track.

BASKETBALL: Pacers vs. Celtics, Game 6; 7 a.m. (r-9p.m.) Star Sports—Indiana tries to stave off elimination while Boston attempts to move on to the second round.

Lakers vs. Wolves, Game 6; 10:30 a.m. (r-11:30p.m.) Star Sports—Shaq and Kobe try to close out the series, but not if KG will let them.

GOLF: HP Classic of New Orleans, First Round; 4 p.m. (r) Star Sports—South Korean KJ Choi defends his title against a tough field vying for the top prize worth \$900,000.

LPGA Takefugi Classic; 2 p.m. ESPN—Will Dorothy Delasin or Jennifer Rosales finally bag the big one in this year's LPGA tournament.

ROWING: Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Race 2003 Highlights; 10:30 a.m. Star Sports—England's most renowned universities renew their age-old rivalry on the water.

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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

SPORTSWATCH**Jody scores sweep**

SUBIC—Jody Coseteng sparked by sweeping the fifth and sixth rounds of the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here recently. Redeeming himself from a heartbreaking loss in the previous round, Coseteng beat Mike Anton of Red Bull in the fifth round and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the sixth round to pull away in the overall standings in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category in this 14-part series organized by the Sports Values Inc. in cooperation with Petron and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. Coseteng, who is seeking his fourth national title since 1994, clocked 2:06:16.151 in the fifth round and 33:25.301 in the sixth round.

Belle Cup listing on

EVERYTHING is set for the staging of the 2003 Belle Cup golf championship on May 9-10 at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands golf courses. Two Northwest Airlines world business class tickets to any destination in the United States and over P300,000 worth of raffle items will be up for grabs in the golfest. Benito Tan Guat, chair of Belle Corp., developer of Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands Golf Club with Willy Ocler and Hans Sy as vice chairs, are organizing the event. The current club president and general manager are Jerry Tiu and Nick Cel-dran, respectively, while Loy Bernardino is the golf director. Registration is now on-going. For more details, call (046) 413-2639.

64 derby fights up

POPULAR cocker-sportsman Pol Estrellado of Laguna and Boy Royo of Rizal will host a big 4-cock derby beginning at 7 tonight. A total of 64 fights are lined up in the event. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Entry fee is P10,000, while prize at stake is P300,000 and minimum bet is P5,500. Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butch Olan said that seven to eight quality fights per hour, non-stop, will be fielded. For details, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Masbate XI prevails

MASBATE Football Club and CCNHS Rojas subdued their opponents recently to emerge Masbate and Cotabato City champions, respectively, in the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival recently. Masbate FC banked on Gringo Bravo's two goals to nip Dimasalang, 3-2, in the exciting finals at the Masbate Centennial Sports Complex. Balocawe FC blanked Mandaon FC, 2-0, to clinch third place. CCNHS Rojas nosed out CCNHS Main Campus, 2-1, to prevail in the Cotabato City competition.

'Tuklas' starts May 5

THE NATIONWIDE search for the tall athletic Filipino youngsters for the RP Burlington Youth Team to the 2004 Southeast Asian Basketball Association Junior Basketball Championship known as "Tuklas Taas" will start in Angeles City, Pampanga on May 5 and 6. Try-outs will be held at the Angeles University gym from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This was announced by Christian Tan, executive vice-president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Ruddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Socks. The program was conceptualized by Team, Inc. for Burlington, as part of the long-term development of the BAP, headed by Tiny Literal. For inquiries, contact the BAP regional directors or the Tuklas-Taas secretariat at tel. nos. 894-3014 or 894-3576.

Spring zaps Indons

PADILLA

JAKARTA—Reigning interclub champion Spring Cooking Oil ripped the Indonesian basketball team, 79-57, to kick off its two-game goodwill basketball series with a big bang at the Senayan Stadium here. Playing coach Bobby Parks, Tyrone Bautista and Jay Lapinid shone as the Filipinos exploded for 35 points in the last 10 minutes to overwhelm the Indons, who are preparing for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. Team owner Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla congratulated his boys in a long distance call from Manila. "You did the country proud with your victory," said Padilla. "Keep it up." Parks, who re-vamped Spring barely two weeks ago in preparation for the National Basketball League championship set this month, noted that his boys still have to make a lot of adjustments. Parks led Spring with 22 points and 12 rebounds while Bautista and Lapinid had 17 and 11 points, respectively.

Auto show at Casino

AN AUTO show dubbed as "Fast Forward" is being held at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City. The event started at 3 p.m. Wednesday and was highlighted by the display of cars including the Shell Ferrari Formula 1 Car, the race car competing in the TRS-Ford Lynx Cup at the Ducati Club. Sponsored by Pagcor, Red Horse, Adidas, Batangas Racing Circuit, H.A.S. Travel and Tucson Racing Circuit, the show also features a fashion display of Adidas race gears and apparels and the search for the Track Queen in line with the lavish launch of the Batangas Racing Circuit at 6 p.m. today. For inquiries, log on at www.tucsonracing.com or call the TRP School at 531-2962; 535-4769.

'Volley' clinics slated

THE MILO Best Volleyball Center summer classes at the Ateneo Grade School covered courts and San Bada College fire off on May 5 and 6, respectively. Level 1, 2 and 3 classes will be held at Ateneo from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on May 5 to 29 while level 1, 2 and 3 sessions will be conducted at SBC also from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on May 6 to 30. Many-time national coach Florentino "Kidd" Santos heads the coaching staff, according to Milo BEST Center official Monica Jorge. Interested parties may contact the BEST Center at tel. 411-2960 and 372-3065/66.

Boost for RP players

FILIPINO athletes now have a wider choice of sporting apparel following the entry of Slazenger in the local market. Brand 1 Unlimited has been appointed by Dunlop-Slazenger International Limited of England as its official Philippine licensee.



NOENG Ruthai Chaipetch of Thailand clears the bar at 1.83 meters to win the gold in the women's high jump.

ERNEJO SARMIENTO

Pinay jumper sets record

Buenavista coasts to easy victory in 10,000m

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EDUARDO "Vertek" Buenavista found no worthy rival and coasted to victory in the men's 10,000m gold medal last night at the start of the Milo National Open track and field championships.

With just a few people left to cheer for him at the Rizal Memorial track stadium, Buenavista quickly imposed himself against local counterparts to finish in 29 minutes and 52 seconds.

His time was way beyond the national mark he owns, 29:02.36, but that was because he had no one to pace him in the day's final event.

National team mainstays Allan Ballester and Crissanto Camillo, both from the Philippine Navy, finished almost a lap behind Buenavista to take second and third place honors.

"If I had a foreign rival in the event, maybe I will be able to pick up my pace and improve my time," said the 4-foot-11 Buenavista.

Still, Buenavista, the Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist, said he is peaking up just fine since he was really preparing for the Asian Grand Prix in July and the Asian Championships in September.

Hernani Sorea of Koronadal, South Cotabato only needed a few hours of rest to successfully defend his boys' 3,000m steeplechase title.

Sorea, who arrived in Manila at 3 p.m. yesterday, competed at 6 p.m. and still had enough energy to win the gold after clocking 10 minutes, 2.06 seconds.

Rene Herrera of Philippine Navy encountered little opposition in taking the men's steeplechase with a 9:02.7 effort, 28 seconds ahead of Navy's David Mamma who placed second.

Meanwhile, navyman Harry Canillo

stepped fastest to win the 20-km men's walk gold medal, but a rangy Filipina jumper shone brightest earlier in the day.

It was a case of silver sparkling brighter than gold as national team member Narcisa Atienza set her own national record in placing second to Thailand's Noeng Chaipetch, whom she had bested in the 2001 Southeast Asian Games.

Atienza, 22, who dropped out of her B.S. Education studies at the University of Santo Tomas to concentrate on her athletic career, cleared at 1.78 meters, thereby improving her own RP mark of 1.75m established during last year's National Open.

"I think I can still improve by the time we get to the SEA Games," said the 5-foot-9 Atienza, who incidentally defeated Chaipetch for silver during the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

Chaipetch scaled 1.83m to win the gold, something that surprised the Batangas lass, who ended up tied with the Thai

during the 2001 SEAG with a 1.74 effort.

"She won because I had a technicality then," said Atienza, who is now competing under the banner of Philippine Army. She will also see action in the heptathlon event.

In winning the first gold in the meet, Canillo strolled in at 1 hour, 45 minutes and 43.9 seconds.

He outstepped Roel Ano of Philippine Airforce (1:46:09.6) and Michael Embuedo also of PAF (1:46:22.7), who finished second and third, respectively.

In the juniors competition, Anthony Dandan of Adamson University won the boys' 10-km walk with a 57:36.6 effort, while Honey Joy Ortaliz of Laguna Province ruled the girls 400m with a time of 1:01.16.

Cebu City Niños' Juvelyn Ocariza handily topped the girls long jump with a 5.06m leap, besting silver winner Nina Buenaflor of Ateneo by .15 meters. With a report from *Alaine Lou Antonio*

Palawan hosts boxing meet

By Dennis Eroa

PALAWAN, dubbed as the country's "Last Frontier," will stage this year's National Boxing Open slated from May 18-24 at the capital city of Puerto Princesa.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the weekend slugfest will also serve as tryout for new members of the national training pool.

"This event will lead to a new breed of boxing heroes," said Lopez.

Lopez thanked Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes for his support in the staging of the annual event which attracts boxers all over the country, including members of the Armed Forces.

Gov. Reyes, Lopez and ABAP secretary-general Rene Fortaleza met recently at the Dulcinea in Greenbelt, Makati City.

"Palawan is honored to host the National Open. This is one way of helping the country produce its first Olympic gold medalist," said Gov. Reyes.

Gov. Reyes said he is utilizing the province's resources and manpower to assure the success of the event.

"The whole of Palawan is united in making the Open a success. I assure the safety of the competitors as fight for honor in our province," said Gov. Reyes.

Last year, Puerto Princesa headed by Mayor Edward Hagedorn successfully hosted the Batang Pinoy Games.

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Race 2--1. Private Pedro 2. Dot Com 3. Hong Kong Girl
Race 3--1. Nureyev Heiress 2. Saint Michael 3. Flying Fortress
Race 4--1. Absurd 2. Color of the Wind 3. Maple My Love
Race 5--1. Mica's Magic 2. Alm and Fire
Race 6--1. Little Sam 2. Main Street 3. Cavite Starlet
Race 7--1. Virgin Atlantic 2. Hurricane Doding 3. Richie Rich
Race 8--1. May's Magic 2. Sealed With a Kiss 3. Sunny Sky 4. Sante Fe 5. Jellbeanjoy 6. Gold Marlins

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SPORTS

Total drug test for PBA urged

Purefoods fights for life vs Red Bull

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports)
5 p.m. - Red Bull vs Purefoods
7:30 p.m. FedEx vs Ginebra

PUREFOODS tries to stay alive today against a Batang Red Bull side hoping to check a two-game PUREFOODS/A30

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NOT mere random, but a mandatory drug test on all active players in the Philippine Basketball Association.

This will cost the league, but a clamor for an all-out drive against drug-users rose in the pro league following the back-to-back scandal that rocked it in less than a week's time.

"With drug cases coming up from all over and going

straight at the league, the PBA is hard-pressed to make a mandatory drug check on all its 120 or more players," league sources said yesterday, hours after it was announced that Ginebra's Alex Crisano had tested positive for shabu.

The PBA announced last week that Batang Red Bull star Jimwell Torion had also admitted having sniffed the dreaded substance during a night out in Cebu in March.

Both Crisano and Torion have been slapped indefinite

suspensions.

Sources inside the league said the PBA just might have to bite the bullet and force all the active players to have their urine tested for traces of banned substance like shabu, ecstasy or marijuana.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala however readily shunned the idea of a mandatory drug test on all players.

Eala told the Inquirer yesterday they would go mandatory only as an extreme measure.

"I think the process we are

using has proved effective, it has been working," Eala explained. "In fact, we've intensified the drug test that will increase the number of random players whose urine will be checked each playing day from four to eight."

Eala admitted he was both saddened and shocked by the latest discovery that Crisano had also tested positive for shabu.

"Considering the scope of our tests, it would be very

TOTAL/A30

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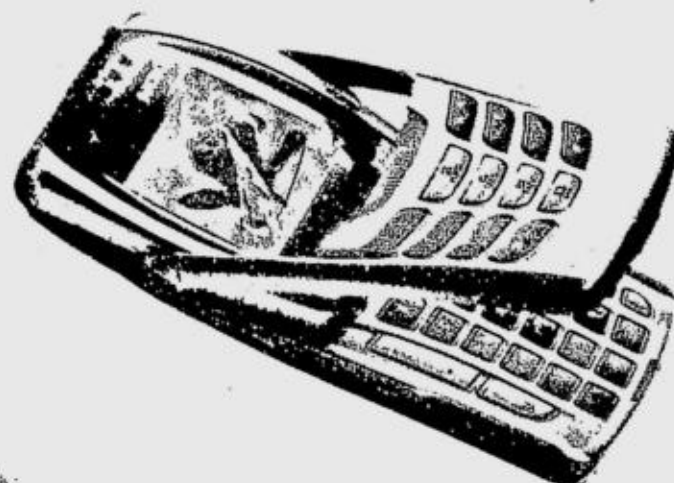


fig 2

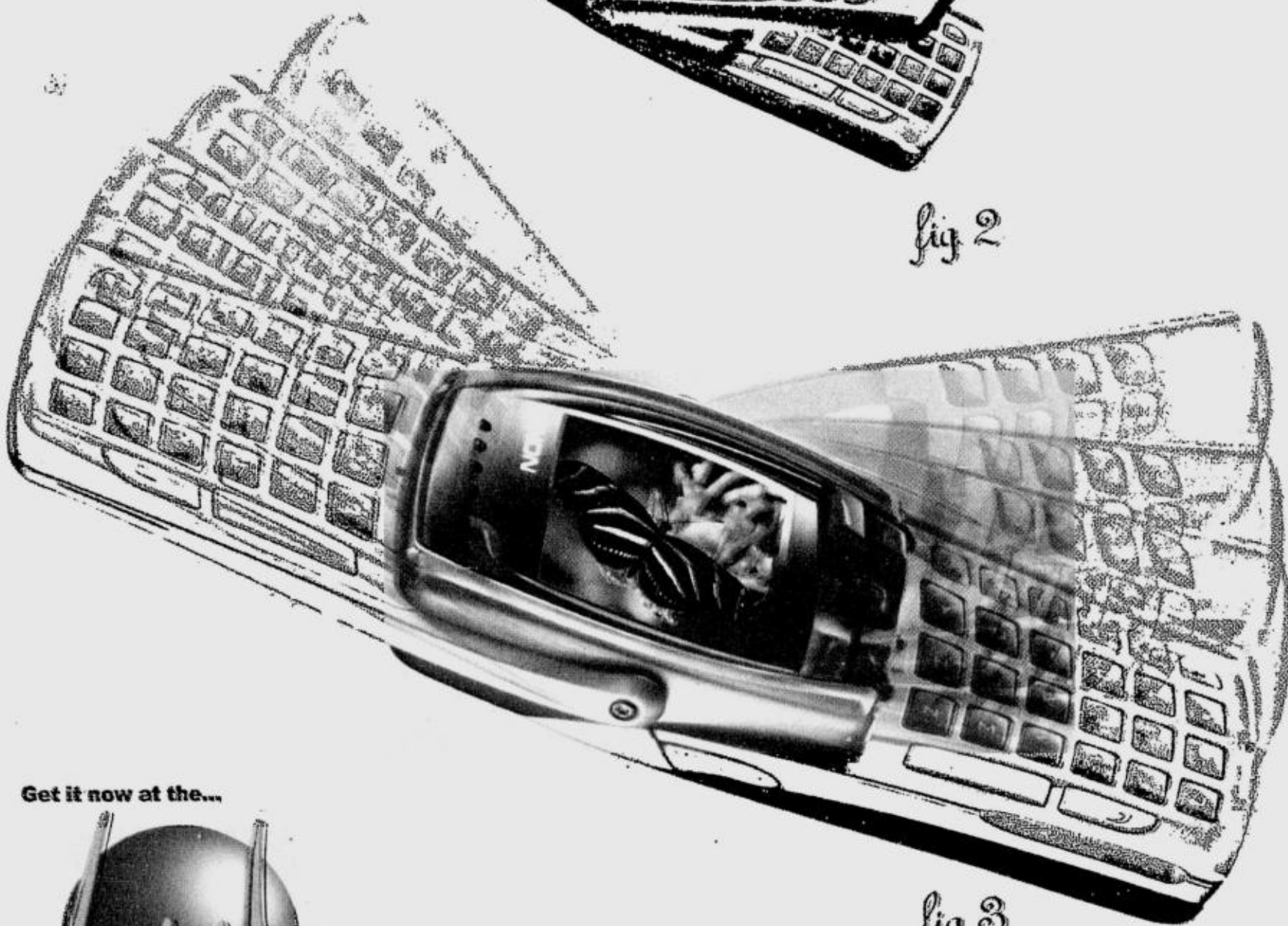


fig 3

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ASI TAALAVA once tested positive for marijuana.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

PBL airs warning vs drug abusers

By Dennis U. Eroa

"LET them be warned."

Commissioner Chino Trinidad yesterday said PBL players must learn from the fate of Jimwell Torion and Alex Crisano, who have been sacked by the PBA for drug abuse.

"Players aiming for the big-time should avoid drugs. The PBL rules and conduct are very clear regarding this issue," Trinidad told the Inquirer in an exclusive interview.

Trinidad said the PBL will conduct mandatory testing on its players before the start of the training camp as early as September.

"At the moment, I can never tell that the league is drug-free. By putting this safeguard, we are telling our wards that we mean business," he said.

He said drug abuse falls under Rule 13, Sec. A of the PBL which says

"that a company may terminate the services of a player if he fails, refuses or neglects to conform his personal conduct to standards of good citizenship, good moral character and sportsmanship; to keep himself in A-1 physical condition or to obey the league training programs."

The PBL did not conduct drug testing for players at the start of the ongoing Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup.

Trinidad said he would discuss with team owners the procedure of the drug tests.

"This move is going to be expensive but we cannot stay blind to this menace," Trinidad said.

While the PBL protects the welfare of the players, Trinidad stressed the importance of family and school in the making of future superstars.

"The league takes care of its players but having solid family tradition and education will keep them away from drugs," Trinidad said.

Over at the Makati Coliseum, John O concluded its elimination campaign by downing Blu Star Detergent Kings, 76-63, in the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup.

John O (7-3) and Hapee (7-2) have already secured semifinal slots.

In the second game, Welcoat boosted its semis hope with a 64-48 win over ICTSI-Archer. Welcoat improved its mark to 5-5.

PBL action shifts to the La Salle Sentrum in Lipa City today where Hapee battles Montana Jewels at 4 p.m. LBC meets Nutri-licious at 6 p.m.

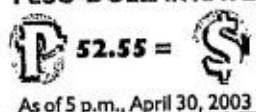
FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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'Hot money' investments trickling back

By Clarissa S. Batino

RISING domestic interest rates started to attract more "hot money" investors to the local market in April, pushing the net portfolio investments to this year's highest level so far at \$50.8 million from \$16.8 million the previous month.

Documents submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that compared to the level a year ago, however, the net portfolio inflow for the first four months ending April 25 amounted to \$85.1 million, lower by \$74 million or 46 percent from \$159.2 million in April 2002.

Last month alone, the net inflow slid by \$11.5 million or 18 percent from \$62.3 million the previous year.

"We saw an improvement in inflow to fixed-income and money

market instruments," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Local interest rates have been going up while the peso has substantially recovered after hitting a record closing low of 55.099 to \$1 last March 12.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate stood at 7.434 percent last Monday against a record low of 4.299 percent a year ago. Interest rates have gone up due to worries over the budget deficit, weak peso, and the implementation of the 10-percent value-added tax on finan-

cial instruments.

The BSP's decision last March 20 to scrap the tiering system on overnight borrowing that pays a decreasing rate on bank deposits as well as raise the banks' reserve requirement by a point also pushed the yields on treasuries and other fixed-income instruments.

Government officials admitted that domestic rates would continue to increase and while unfavorable for state financing, it would provide incentives and attract foreign portfolio investors.

Foreign portfolio funds are

normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

Inbound funds in the first four months stood at \$254.2 million, a level that was \$318.8 million or 55.6 percent lower than the \$573 million a year ago. Outbound funds also fell by \$244.7 million or 59 percent from \$413.8 million in the first four months of 2002.

The inflow of \$79.5 million and outflow of \$28.7 million in the month ending April 25 was substantially lower than the \$197.5 million in inbound and

\$135.2 million in outbound funds in April 2002.

Net portfolio investments grew 194 percent last year to \$202 million against \$68.7 million in 2001.

Analysts said investors everywhere were jittery over the uncertain global situation although risks in the local market were seen to be greater given the volatile local currency and the wobbly fiscal sector.

Still, the central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to flow in the coming months.

3M says demand for SARS masks stunning

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

3M, the leading maker of the scarce anti-SARS specialty masks, said that it could only meet 5 percent of the skyrocketing demand for N95-type respirator masks in the Philippines.

Bernard Brown, 3M Philippines business unit manager, told the INQUIRER that the company could not cope with the flood of orders for the N95 masks not only because of the sheer volume but also because other countries that were harder hit by the SARS epidemic such as Hong Kong, Singapore and China have the priority in the supply distribution. Brown refused to make an estimate of the Philippine demand for N95 masks. "We're not ready for this kind of demand because the masks were primarily meant for industrial use," Brown said.

Brown assured buyers that 3M has been exploring ways to meet all orders for N95 masks although it might take time before their orders would arrive. Brown said that the company might impose a quota of 20 boxes per client to prevent hoarding and price manipulation.

He said 3M has also been working closely with the government to ensure that distributors and traders sell them at the suggested retail price of P70 each.

Brown said the company has been making sure that its supplies go directly to the primary users such as hospital and airline workers instead of unscrupulous traders who would sell the masks at 7 to 8 times its purchase cost.

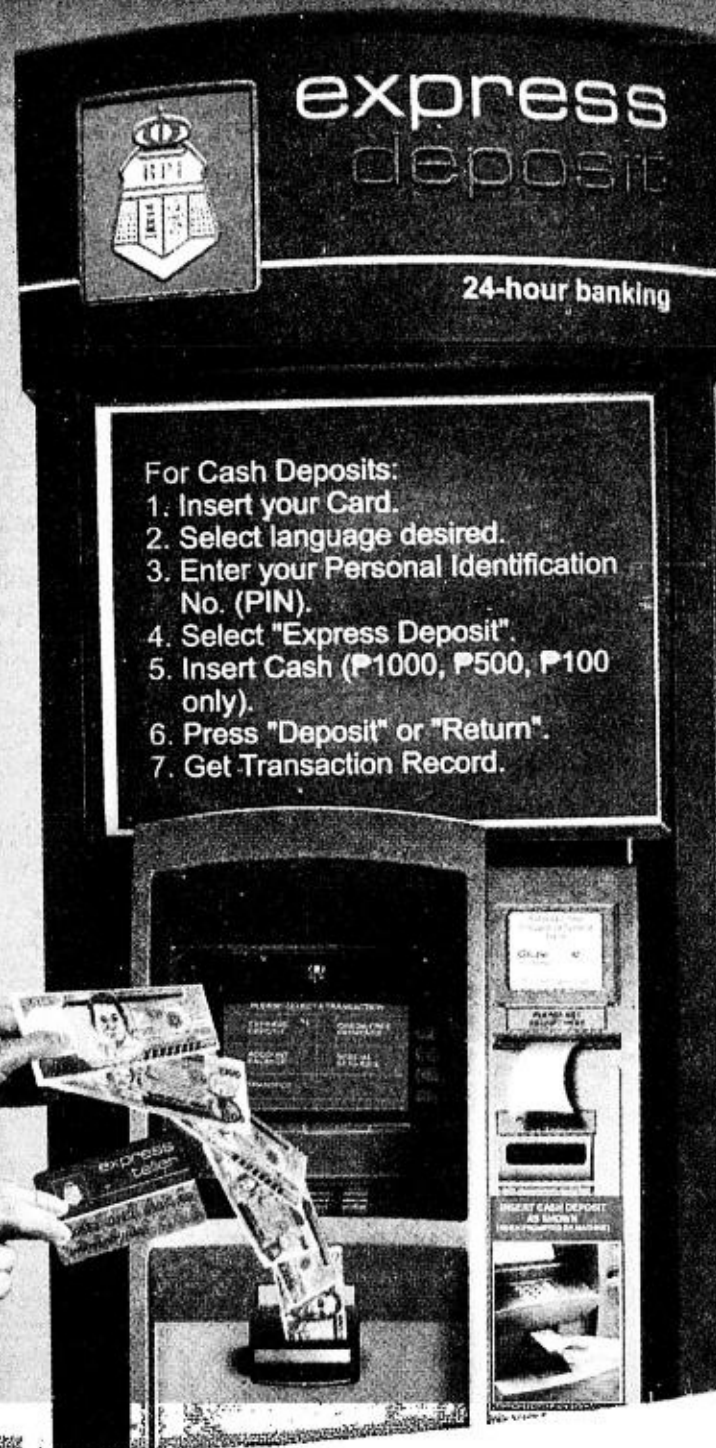
The Department of Trade and Industry netted 4 retail outlets in Manila caught selling 3M respirator masks and other anti-SARS products way above the suggested retail prices indicated by manufacturers and for failing to display the prices of their products. These were Medtrade Medical Supplies (which sold the N95-type mask at P400 each), Bambang Medical Supplies, Ghemmex Enterprises and R. Medina Enterprises.

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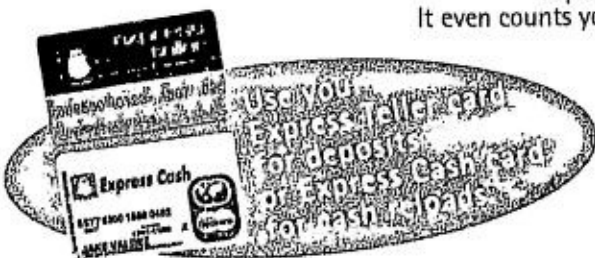
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B2

BOI readies juicy perks for auto parts exporters

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments will offer juicy tax credits as an incentive to automotive parts manufacturers to jack up their export volume and the local content of their products.

The tax perks for automotive parts would complement a separate incentive package being crafted for exporters of completely built up vehicle units.

The BOI had already agreed to give CBU exporters a sizable discount (as much as 50 percent) on their excise tax payments based on the volume of fully assembled vehicles that they export to other countries.

A BOI official said the tax credits, to be based on the incremental volume and percentage of local content, could be used by the recipients to off-

set their tax payments from duties to local taxes.

This performance-based incentives for auto parts exporters are meant to replace the mandatory local content requirement (which requires assemblers to utilize a set percentage of local materials in their production) set for abolition in July.

Sans the local content requirement, local parts makers were worried that they would lose out a captive market for their products because assemblers were likely to tap foreign suppliers that offer cheaper components.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., the country's leading automotive parts exporter, had earlier appealed to the BOI to give equal treatment to both CBU and auto parts manufacturers in the grant of export incentives.

The BOI official noted that the country's slippage in its per capita income below the \$1,000 mark exempted it from a World Trade Organization's policy seeking the removal of trade distorting measures such as subsidies and content requirements.

The BOI had also told local auto parts makers that it would only give tariff protection to those that would increase their investments, tie up with foreign carmakers, and expand their product lines in order to beef up their operations.

The government is drawing up an export subsidy package for the automotive industry in line with its target to boost sales up to 250,000 units (including exports) by 2006 or nearly three times last year's annual volume.



CAMP JOHN HAY

Officers of Camp John Hay Development Corp., led by its chief operating officer Benigno T. Cabrieto (third from left), inspect the on-going construction work at Camp John Hay Forest Cabins. With Cabrieto are (from left) Global Shelter project-in-charge Roy Rivera, Mendoza Construction Corp. project engineer Edgar Dupo, Project Development Management's Silvino Lambino, Interpro vice president Jeremias Reyes and senior vice president for marketing Shean Bedi.

DOE seeks permanent solution to oil depot issue

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expressed relief with the 20-day reprieve given to the oil giants operating the Pandacan oil depot.

The DOE said it would use the period to come up with a "permanent solution" to the problem.

"The DOE can now breathe more easily as there is no longer any problem of potential shortage (in petroleum products) now," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez told reporters Wednesday evening.

Two Manila Regional Trial Court judges on Wednesday

granted the separate petitions of Petron Corp. and Caltex Phils. for temporary restraining orders on the closure of the oil depot by the Manila City Hall and Mayor Lito Atienza.

While the TRO is in force, Atienza has agreed to give the oil firms "special business permits" allowing them to continue operating the depot while hearings for a permanent injunction are being held.

Although Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.'s petition for a TRO was denied, the Manila mayor also gave it a special business permit for its facility at the oil terminal.

The oil firms' business per-

mits expired midnight of April 30 under City Ordinance No. 8027 that would converted the 33-hectare site of the depot from an industrial zone into a commercial zone.

Perez had warned of a possible "artificial fuel shortage" should the Pandacan oil depot be shut down.

While expressing relief over the issuance of special business permits for the oil firms, he urged the three oil giants to show their seriousness in complying with the security and safety provisions of the memorandum of understanding they signed with the city of Manila for the depot.

BSP chief back to work after 2-mo break

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura will report back to work on Monday after a two-month break.

Buenaventura's return from a sick leave that started on March 10 will be in time for the 12-day review of the country's performance by the International Monetary Fund starting May 8.

The central bank governor is the country's chief negotiator with the IMF.

Buenaventura left for the United



BUENAVENTURA

States in March to undergo treatment for what he described was a minor thyroid problem.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. acted as officer in charge of the central bank while Buenaventura was out.

Tetangco steered the BSP during the time when the peso dropped to a record low of 55.099 on March 12. It was during this period when the BSP fined several banks for speculating against the peso.

The acting chief described his two-month stint as "his most trying moments at the BSP."

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AXA posts P23M in profit

PHILIPPINE AXA Life Insurance Corp. registered P22.9 million in statutory profit and P2.8 billion in premium income last year affirming its position among the top 5 players in the business.

Last year's premium income was 88.4 percent higher than the P1.5 billion registered in 2001. Its assets grew by 83 percent from P2.5 billion in 2001 to P4.6 billion in 2002.

"We've achieved a return to statutory profit one year ahead of target," said Philippine AXA Life

president and CEO Victor P. Quisumbing. "The company managed to hurdle tremendous odds through clear and effective strategic direction, and through team spirit."

A key to Philippine AXA Life's achievements last year was its emphasis on creating value in all its business lines by focusing on strategic points that answer company stakeholders' various requirements such as profitability, productivity, operational efficiency and customer service.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION As of March 26, 2003

ASSETS	Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P 4,190,708.90
Due from Central Bank	128,412,878.77
Due from Other Banks	2,048,783,048.95
Interbank Loans Receivable	250,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities	270,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	2,873,848,080.80
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	2,527,101,848.80
Equity Investments (Net)	2,578,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad	1,745,898,790.88
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)	10,991,272.38
Other Assets (Net):	
Others	204,227,580.28
TOTAL ASSETS	P 9,851,709,044.36
LIABILITIES	Amount
Demand Deposits	P 222,708,488.99
Savings Deposits	1,184,932,044.88
Time Deposits	3,848,420,289.53
Special Deposits	17,854,897.87
Due to Central Bank	3,397,178.24
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad	3,880,486,838.80
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	887,269.91
Bills Payable Interbank Borrowings	100,204,462.75
Unearned Income and other Deferred Credits	778,632.45
Other Liabilities	198,204,212.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 9,365,613,033.83
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	Amount
Assigned Capital	P 444,323,834.54
Other Capital Accounts	81,772,375.99
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 526,096,210.53
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	Amount
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 9,891,709,044.36
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	Amount
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 942,314,388.78
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	2,832,748,491.09
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	2,818,418,619.24
Other Contingent Accounts	1,029,619,529.19
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 7,622,401,028.30

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION HEAD OFFICE As of 30 September 2002 in AUD Millions

Capital	5,314
Surplus	6,151
Profits	2,322
Total Deposits	113,297
Total Resources	183,105
Other Information	
1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	nil
b. Banks	301,199.00
c. Trust Department	nil
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
Prescribed Ratio	8% Small Enl.
Actual Compliance	104% 100%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	149,123,381.00
4. Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio	5.01%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	149,190,322.00
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	103,612,442.82
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	74,578,428.75
8. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital	28.28%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity	22.04%
Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO	5,238,290.51
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	0.18%
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances	nil
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	nil
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio	1,934,900,058.72
13. "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad"	

* Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

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WE, JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Original (Sgd) JOHNNY CO Original (Sgd) KIM CHAN

General Manager and Country Head Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 11917495, issued at Makati City, on Feb. 21, 2002 and Passport No. E7048749, issued at Jakarta Indonesia, on June 2, 1999.

Benjamin Mata NOTARY PUBLIC; Until Dec. 31, 2003; PTR No. A-24-1898; Date issued 2 January 2, 2003

Doc. No. 285; Book No. 01; Page No. XXXI; Series of 03.

RP debt stock hits P2.906T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' public debt grew 19 percent or P469 billion to P2.906 trillion in February from P2.437 trillion a year ago as the government borrowed from foreign and local sources to pay maturing debts and finance its swollen budget deficit.

Relating the debt stock to population, each of the 80 million Filipinos would account for a debt of P36,325 based on the February numbers.

The foreign debt component rose 24 percent or by P281 billion to P1.445 trillion (\$26.59 billion) due to the combined effect of new loans and the weaker local currency.

The exchange rate used in converting dollar loans in February was P54.35 to \$1 against P51.35 a year ago and P53.80 in January when the level of foreign debt stock stood at P1.399 trillion (\$26.013 billion).

A \$300-million euro bond float of the government in February expanded the outstanding dollar loans. In January, the government raised \$500 million from the 10-year global bond market.

Domestic borrowings went up 14.8 percent or by P189 billion to P1.46 trillion as of February against a year ago although on a month-on-month basis, local debts shrunk by P15 billion from P1.476 trillion in January.

Month-on-month, the public debt stock inched up a percent or by P31 billion from P2.875 trillion in January.

During the same period, the government's contingent liabilities swelled to P609 billion, up 24.6 percent or P120.5 billion from P488.5 billion as of February 2002 and by about P7 billion from P602 billion in January. These are borrowings backed by sovereign guarantees and could become actual liabilities each time state agencies and private sector companies with guaranteed loans fail to pay their obligations.

Of the total contingent debts, P588 billion are denominated in foreign currencies and only P21 billion in the local currency.

The country's public debt is seen to hit P3.058 trillion this year from P2.815 trillion in 2002. This would be equivalent to 71.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

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B4

Gov't tries to win back Nomura SEC says 11 listed firms overstated assets, capital

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri has urged Japan's biggest securities firm to consider reinvesting in the country, saying the current economic climate has dramatically improved from the time the company suspended its operations here in 2001.

During his recent visit to Japan, Neri met with officials of Nomura Securities to convince them to diversify the company's investments to other Asian countries, particularly the Philippines, rather than focus on China.

"I spoke with (Nomura president and chief executive officer) Junichi Ujie and the rest of the management committee and pointed out the recent developments in the country under the Macapagal administration that have reduced the risk of doing business," Neri said in an interview.

Neri said that being the most prestigious investment banker in Japan, Nomura Securities could bring into the country a lot of portfolio and direct investments. He told

company officials of the economic reforms undertaken by the government, such as the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle, the President's eight-point agenda, the Department of Trade and Industry's program for small and medium enterprises and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' microfinancing program.

Neri also said he had pointed out to them the low inflation rate recorded in the first quarter of the year, which stood at 2.9 percent, as one of the plus factors of reinvesting in the country.

He added that the current inflation rate, which was lower than the expected 4.5 to 5.5 percent, was a sign that the country was capable of sustaining businesses.

"The government was also able to coordinate with transport groups and the labor sector to hold off calls for transport and wage increases to keep business costs down and preserve employment," Neri added.

Nomura securities shut down its operations in the country in 2001 due to poor market conditions that resulted in meager profits.

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission found that 11 listed companies had overstated their assets or capital and effectively profits in their 2001 audited financial statements.

The SEC said the amount involved was estimated at about P10.3 billion.

In a briefing with reporters Wednesday afternoon, SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat said the SEC would ask these companies next week to show cause why they should not be penalized for the material violations of ac-

counting standards.

Manabat said the commission could impose on these companies fines ranging from P10,000 to P1 million per count of violation.

Manabat, however, declined to identify the 11 companies but said that three of them were holding companies that overstated investments in affiliates due to non-recognition of loss in value of goodwill.

If these companies recognized the loss in goodwill value, their net worth and profit would have gone down substantially.

He also said that two former min-

ing companies now engaged in information technology had overstated their assets because they deferred mining costs and impaired values of mining assets no longer used in operations. The amounts involved were placed at P247 million and P67 million.

Two other firms overstated their assets resulting from capitalization of administration and operating expenses at P121 million and P118 million.

One actively traded listed company, he said, had inconsistently applied accounting policy in the recognition of an income worth P682 million.

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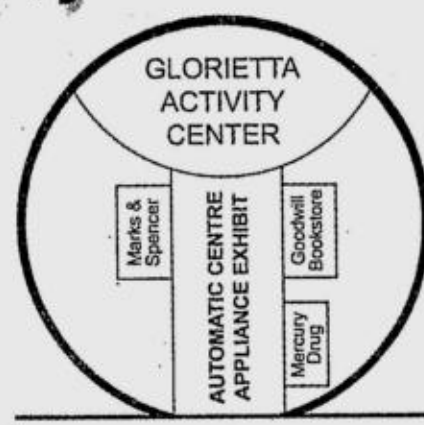
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White House lobbyists

POOR Tommy Alcantara and Bobby Romulo.

The two officials, in charge of preparations for GMA's US state visit, have been, according to the grapevine, under tremendous pressure from a publisher and his travel companion who wish to be included in the White House dinner to be tendered by President Bush for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The White House invitation is supposed to be limited to GMA and her official delegation, numbering 14 to at most 16, excluding the irrepressible duo.

The two are instead being gently steered into attending the parallel Blair House reception, where the wives of the Cabinet members will have dinner with their counterparts, but the publisher, finding the Blair House affair below the salt, has nevertheless put his appeal directly to GMA herself.

Anger management

SEC Commissioner Jesus Mar-

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin



tinez has not been reporting for work since Monday, apparently having rediscovered religion and circumspection after his long-running disagreements with SEC Chair Lilia Bautista and the three other female commissioners came to a head last week.

Martinez had already written a letter of apology to his colleagues, but the act of contrition apparently came rather too late, with the four now having accumulated a dossier and a belated background check, sourced from Martinez's own colleagues from CIBAC, on their lone male colleague.

According to the grapevine,

even GMA lawyer F. Arthur Villaraza, who is in the United States for an extended rest/medical checkup, and whose law firm had supposedly sponsored Martinez's appointment to the SEC, has been bombarding Martinez with not-so-encouraging text messages.

Martinez, fortunately or unfortunately, has a fixed seven-year term.

In and out

AFTER more than a month's absence, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura is expected to return to work with a spring on his step on Monday.

EX-BANKER Evelyn Singson was prevented from attending the board meeting of the Asian Hospital earlier this week despite a ruling from the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court that her ouster from the hospital board had been illegal. The hospital lawyers, on the

other hand, claim that the ruling is not yet final since the case is now on appeal.

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo is planning to step down from the service by year's end to run for mayor of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Heard through the grapevine

THE RECENTLY widowed owner of the Merced bake house and drugstore chain is still in mourning, and yet she is already being encircled by nephews and nieces all casting moist eyes on her fortune.

The widow, a septuagenarian, is unfortunately childless; the nephews and nieces are now even questioning the inheritance claim of the widow's adopted daughter.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Bourse sets \$-denominated trading board

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is ready to jumpstart its dollar-denominated trading (DDT) board by June or July this year, but traders and investors will be prohibited from using dollars bought from the banking system.

PSE chief technology officer Ed Ocampo said the DDT, which aims to enhance the PSE's trading infrastructure by allotting an extended off-floor trading session in the afternoon for trades of companies with securities that are listed abroad, could be operational within the next few months.

In a recent press briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had no qualms about the upcoming facility "as long as the dollars to be used for trading will not be sourced from the banking system."

The BSP prohibits the purchase of dollars from the banking system for reasons other than to fill corporate requirements such as importation and debt payments. Purchases above \$5,000 are subjected to strict documentary requirements.

As the dollars to be used for the DDT could not be bought from the banking system, Leung said the participation in the new facility would thus be limited to people with their own sources of foreign exchange.

"They have to source the dollars from their own foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs)," Leung said.

The facility thus seeks to attract investments from FCDU holders such as exporters, beneficiaries of remittances from overseas Filipinos and other high networth individuals with excess dollar savings.

The BSP did not allow the sourcing of dollars from the banking system for the DDT on concerns that the facility could be used to speculate against the local currency.

Initially, the facility will be restricted to trades of PLDT, Manulife and Sun Life of Canada, which have shares listed abroad.

The offering of the facility seeks to eliminate foreign exchange volatility risks by enabling trades to be strictly denominated in dollars, from actual trade execution to final settlement. It also seeks to introduce an attractive environment for cross-border trading.

May 1, 2003		CURRENCIES			
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent	
United States	Dollar	0.902690	1.000000	52.817000	
Japan	Yen	0.007533	0.008345	0.440800	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.139429	1.594600	84.222000	
Hongkong	Dollar	0.115747	0.128225	6.772500	
Switzerland	Franc	0.662914	0.734376	38.787500	
Canada	Dollar	0.625695	0.693145	36.609800	
Singapore	Dollar	0.508386	0.563190	29.746000	
Australia	Dollar	0.559218	0.619502	32.720200	
Bahrain	Dinar	2.394531	2.652661	140.105600	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.240724	0.266674	14.084900	
Brunei	Dollar	0.506958	0.561608	29.662400	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000115	0.006100	
Thailand	Baht	0.021046	0.023315	1.231400	
UAE	Dirham	0.245784	0.272279	14.381000	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.107800	58.510700	
Argentina	Peso	0.316733	0.350877	18.532300	
Brazil	Real	0.310844	0.344353	18.187700	
Denmark	Kroner	0.134640	0.149154	7.877900	
India	Rupee	0.019096	0.021155	1.117300	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.237582	0.263193	13.901100	
Mexico	New Peso	0.087750	0.097210	5.134300	
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502891	0.557103	29.424500	
Norway	Kroner	0.128190	0.142009	7.500500	
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015645	0.017331	0.915400	
South Africa	Rand	0.125942	0.139519	7.369900	
Korea	Won	0.000744	0.000824	0.043500	
Sweden	Kroner	0.109756	0.121588	6.421900	
Syria	Pound	0.021493	0.023810	1.257600	
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025947	0.028744	1.518200	
Venezuela	Bollvar	0.000566	0.000627	0.033100	

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE					
(As of Wednesday, April 30, 2003)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	1,000
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	123,400
Banko de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36.5	35.5	36.5	378,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	660	660	660	660	5,390
China Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Citistate Savings Bank	24	24	24	24	105,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	147,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24	24.5	24	24.5	4,400
Philippine National Bank	26	27	26	27	5,500
Phil. Savings Bank	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	7,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	9,300
Union Bank of the Phil.					
FINANCIAL SERVICES	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	15,615,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1360	1360	1350	1350	560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1055	1030	1030	2,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION	12	12.25	12	12.25	4,800
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	0.71	0.76	0.71	0.74	10,460,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	535	555	535	550	95,970
Globe Telecom Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	7,080,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	367.5	382.5	367.5	380	140,850
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	240,000
Smart Telecom Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	600,000
POWER & ENERGY	6.7	7	6.7	6.8	140,000
Manila Electric Co. A	9.7	10.25	9.7	10.25	35,000
Manila Electric Co. B	1.98	2.08	1.98	2.08	9,093,000
Petron Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy					
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	12,000
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.46	94,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	25,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	2	2	2	2	
William, Gothong & Aboliz					
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	3,220,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	70,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.68	60,000
Union Cement Corp.					
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	95,000
Alaska Milk Corp.	16	16.5	16	16.5	1,025,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	31	31	9,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
RFM Corp.	55.5	55.5	55	55.5	959,200
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66	66	66	123,500
San Miguel Corp. B	4	4	4	4	452,000
Universal Robina Corp.					
HOLDING FIRMS	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	4	4	3.95	4	4,002,000
Ayala Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	61,000
Aboliz Equity Ventures	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Angle Phil Holdings Corp.	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.32	6,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.22	0.195	0.215	14,390,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,860,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	90,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	16,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	60,000
Macro Asia Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	260,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	4,450,000
Metropacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,630,000
Musica Corp.					
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	12,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.96	1.98	1.88	1.96	214,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	20	20	20	20	10,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.					
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	5,490,000
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	15,000
Philippine Racing Club					
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS	11.25	12.25	11.25	12	276,000
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10	10	10	10	1,000
Pdlt 10% Pref Series Aa	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	42,000
WGA - Preferred					
PROPERTY	4.95	5.1	4.95	5	4,068,000
Ayala Land Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	12,690,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	110,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
City & Land Developers	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	5,483,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.					
MINING	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	350,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.0044	149,000,000
Quinta Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	400,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B					
OIL	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	3,500,000
Imperial Res.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l					

PSE to trade T-bills by June

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is pilot-testing a new trading facility to pave the way for the distribution of treasury bills through the local bourse within the first semester of this year.

Newly elected PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo said the local bourse was working on an arrangement wherein the exchange would get a share of the T-bills being auctioned by the government and sell these securities through its member-brokers.

The PSE is currently finalizing the distribution agreement with the Bureau of Treasury, which had approved the scheme in principle last year.

The arrangement seeks to develop a more active secondary market for government securities, thus boosting the capital market by widening the base for sovereign debt.

Under the forthcoming arrangement, stockbrokers will tie up with accredited government securities dealers to get a share of the T-bills being awarded by the Treasury during the auction held twice a month. The T-bills have maturities of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days.

PSE brokers will thus act as market-makers by giving small savers the option to buy T-bills in the secondary market, which will likewise improve the pricing of these issuances.

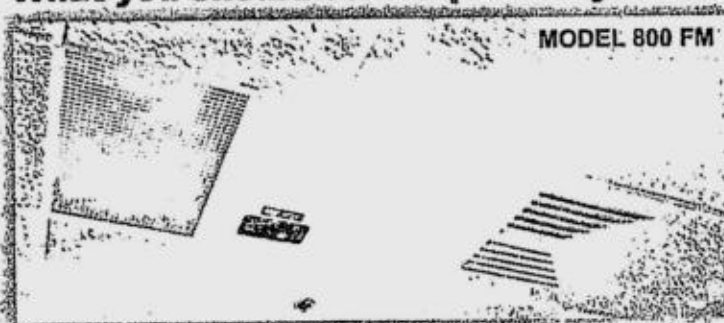
The PSE launched its own fixed income board in 2001 with the listing of small-denominated treasury bonds but it has not attracted significant investor interest, mostly because many investors want to hold on up to the maturity of these longer term securities.

The new arrangement, which will cover securities with shorter maturities, is seen as more attractive for secondary trading.

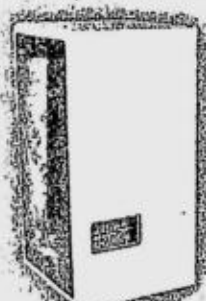
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2002 325i chassis: E771038	2,350,0

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A NATIONAL-LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE

Theme: Sama-samang Pagkilos ng Pambansa at Lokal na Pamahalaan, Pribadong Sektor, at Mamamahayag Laban sa SARS

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MEMORANDUM ORDER No. 98

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO JOINTLY LEAD THE NATIONAL ANTI-SARS CONSCIOUSNESS AND CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, it is the National Policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, local government units are mandated by law to promote and ensure the health and safety of its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has caused an alarming number of deaths, monitored by the World Health Organization (WHO) to have totaled one hundred forty-four (144) in twenty three (23) countries believed to be SARS-infected or suspected of having probable cases of SARS as of 14 April 2003;

WHEREAS, it has become essential and timely to develop an integrated and comprehensive health plan to combat SARS or reduce the number of SARS cases reported;

WHEREAS, the dissemination of accurate information about SARS and its prevention is vital and should be undertaken at the soonest possible time, while health and social services are rendered responsive to the country and its people's health needs and problems; and

WHEREAS, addressing this concern may be efficiently undertaken through the joint efforts of the national and local government through the Department of Health and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of Health and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government shall jointly lead the National ANTI-SARS Consciousness and Clean-Up campaign and shall issue necessary and appropriate circulars for its effective implementation.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Health and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government are hereby authorized to call on any department, bureau or agency of the government for assistance, as may be needed in the said campaign.

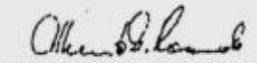
SECTION 3. All Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors and *Pinning Barangay* are hereby directed to ensure that the campaign is efficiently and effectively undertaken within their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Health and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government shall jointly prepare and submit a monthly report to the Office of the President, through the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), on the accomplishments and actions taken in compliance with this Memorandum Order.

SECTION 5. This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila this 24th day of April, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and three.

By the President:


ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary

Malacañang
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 366



DECLARING MAY 05 TO 09, 2003, AS NATIONAL ANTI-SARS CONSCIOUSNESS AND CLEAN-UP WEEK

WHEREAS, it is the National Policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has caused an alarming number of deaths, monitored by the World Health Organization (WHO) to have totaled one hundred forty-four (144) in twenty three (23) countries believed to be SARS-infected or suspected of having probable cases of SARS as of 14 April 2003;

WHEREAS, it has become essential and timely to develop an integrated and comprehensive health plan to combat SARS or reduce the number of SARS cases reported;

WHEREAS, the dissemination of accurate information about SARS and its prevention is vital and should be undertaken at the soonest possible time, while health and social services are rendered responsive to the country and its people's health needs and problems;

WHEREAS, the negative impact of SARS on business productivity, tourism and mobility of citizens has become astoundingly evident; and

WHEREAS, addressing this concern may be efficiently undertaken through the joint efforts of the national and local government through the Department of Health and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare May 05 to 09, 2003, as National Anti-SARS Consciousness and Clean-Up Week.

The Department of Health and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall jointly lead the campaign and issue appropriate circulars for the implementation of this Proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila this 24th day of April in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and three.

By the President:


ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II EDSA cor.
Mopangmuhai St., Diliman, Quezon City

April 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2003-87

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS

SUBJECT : NATIONAL-LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST SARS FORUM

The growing concern over the increase in the number of reported cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the country, and the alarming number of deaths due to the disease worldwide necessitate the dissemination of accurate information about SARS and its prevention and control.

To effectively respond to this concern, and pursuant to Memorandum Order No. 98 dated April 24, 2003, directing the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Interior and Local Government to jointly lead the Anti-SARS campaign, and Presidential Proclamation No. 366, dated April 24, 2003, declaring May 5 to 9, 2003, as Anti-SARS Consciousness and Clean Up Week, this Department, in coordination with the Department of Health, will hold The National-Local Governments' Counter Attack against SARS Forum on May 3, 2003 at the Philippine International Convention Center. This Forum aims to develop a comprehensive and integrated response to combat SARS and prevent its spread in the country.

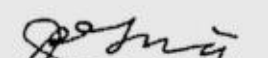
In this connection, all Provincial Governors, City Mayors, Municipal Mayors, Provincial Health Officers, City Health Officers, Municipal Health Officers and members of the National Directorate of the Liga ng mga Barangay are directed to attend the said forum.

The payment of traveling expenses and hotel accommodation is hereby authorized, chargeable against local government funds, subject to the availability thereof and to usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Lunch and snacks during the forum proper will be shouldered by the national government.

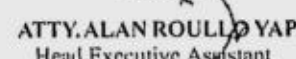
It is understood that all concerned are to arrive in Metro Manila not later than the early evening of May 2, 2003. Attached is a list of hotels, inns and pension houses near the venue, and the corresponding room rates, for the guidance of all concerned.

All DILG Regional Directors are likewise hereby directed to cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all government units within their jurisdictions.

For strict compliance.


JOSE D. LINA JR.
Secretary

Attested by:


ATTY. ALAN ROULLO YAP
Head Executive Assistant

PURPOSE

- Provide LGUs with updated information concerning SARS and the current national response
- Provide LGUs with guides for effective and coordinated actions to prevent, contain, and manage SARS cases
- Launch and clarify the mechanics of the Anti-SARS Consciousness and Clean-Up Campaign

EXPECTED OUTCOME

It is expected that after the Conference the LGUs shall be able to:

- Undertake a sustained public information campaign on SARS in coordination with DOH and other sectors
- Formulate local responses to prevent and contain the transmission of SARS in their respective areas consistent with DOH Guidelines (e.g. through local ordinances and other measures)
- Coordinate effectively with DOH and other national agencies in implementing anti-SARS measures

PROGRAM

7:30 - 8:30	Registration Morning Snacks (Reception Hall) National Anthem and Doxology NAPOLCOM Chorale
8:30 - 8:40	
8:40 - 9:00	Welcome Statement and Introduction of Participants Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. Introduction of the Guest of Honor Executive Secretary Alberto G. Romulo
9:00 - 9:20	Keynote Speech: The Anti-SARS National Action Plan HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
9:20 - 10:30	Global and National SARS Situations Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit
10:30 - 12:00	LGU's Guide to Action Against SARS Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr.
12:00 - 2:00	LUNCH BREAK
2:00 - 4:00	Discussions with Agencies: Operational Details, Tasks and Responsibilities on the Anti-SARS National Action Plan
Cluster 1:	Managing Movement of Potential SARS Subject (DFA, DOLE, DOJ-BID, DOTC-PPA, DOH)
Cluster 2:	Preventing Price Increase of SARS-related Items (DTI, DILG, OPS-PIA, DOH)
Cluster 3:	Conducting Public Information Campaign (OPS-PIA, DOH, DepEd, DOT, DSWD, NSA)
Cluster 4:	Providing Appropriate Local Response (DOH, DILG, DSWD, PhilHealth)
4:00 - 5:00	Statements of Commitment / Support • Leagues of Local Governments • Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Makati Business Club • Management Association of the Philippines • Philippine Business for Social Progress • Philippine Medical Association • Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas • National Press Club • Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office • Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
5:00 - 5:30	Closing Statement Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr.
	Afternoon Snacks (Forum and Reception Halls)

PARTICIPANTS

Local Government Units

- Province : Governor and Provincial Health Officer (158)
- City : City Mayor and City Health Officer (230)
- Municipal : Mun. Mayor and Mun. Health Officer (2,990)

National Government Agencies

- DOH : Regional Directors and Staff
- DILG : Regional / Provincial / City Directors (210)
Conference Support Staff / LGUs Leagues (200)

OTHER NGAS: Departments of Social Welfare and Development, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Communications, Education, Labor and Employment, Tourism, Trade and Industry; Office of the Press Secretary, National Disaster Coordinating Council, National Security Council, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Immigration, Philippine Ports Authority, Air Transport Office, Land Transportation Office and Philippine Coast Guard.

Media



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government units can create jobs

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LOCAL Government Units (LGUs) are potentially the best catalysts for creating jobs. What follows is a true story. It shows how good governance and community participation led by the LGUs, without any external funding, transformed a remote town into a vibrant, economic hub.

RICH program

In 1987, then Tarlac Governor Mar Un Ocampo spearheaded the Rural Industrialization Can Happen (RICH) Program. The Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) acted as the main source of technical support. The plan was to implement the one town-one product concept that will provide the economies of scale necessary to survive and grow.

Then Mayor Clemente Afuan of Anao, Tarlac liked the idea. He energized the once sleepy community to plant ilang-ilang wherever they could: backyards, empty lots, available farm areas. Late last year, the Probe Team featured Anao, now known as the ilang-ilang town, in its television program. It showed how this town had blossomed with ilang-ilang as a major source of income. Here, the one product-one town concept is a very successful reality.

The Anao Ilang-ilang Program did not receive any external funding. It was the mayor's vision, good governance and community participation that did the job. The mayor promoted the planting of ilang-ilang. He identified its market, an absolute "must" for any successful project, provided planting materials and inspired the community to make the vision of Anao as the ilang-ilang town a reality. Today, there are 20,000 ilang-ilang flowering trees.

At the beginning, the combined Tarlac LGU/TLRC team went to Anao to do a resource survey. Anao was a very dry place with few trees, scarce vegetation, little irrigation and no significant natural source of water. But it had the most important ingredient: a mayor who was open and clearly committed to his community's welfare.

"As we went around Anao, I saw an ilang-ilang tree that grew very well in one of the house's backyard. I told the mayor that he could

make Anao the ilang-ilang town. After explaining to him the product's potential, the mayor got excited. He immediately embarked on the propagation of ilang-ilang in his town," a TLRC team member said.

Today, a visit to Anao under incumbent Mayor Rodolfo Guerrero will show flowering ilang-ilang trees all over the town. Each tree is under the care of the household nearest to it from which that particular household gets its income.

Under the same RICH program, the ilang-ilang concept spread to Guagua, Pampanga with the help of then Mayor Manuel Santiago, another visionary. This further expanded to Floridablanca and Lubao also in Pampanga.

Origin and uses

In English, ilang-ilang means "Flower of Flowers". It was originally found only in the Philippines. During the Spanish rule, it was so precious that bringing out the seeds from our shores was strictly forbidden. Today, the world market for ilang-ilang is 100 tons a year. Its 10 ml. oil sells for \$5.00 or approximately P250.00. Each tree provides the family P100-P200 a day for a half-day of picking and bundling of flowers. This tree can provide continuous income during

its 20-year life span. A couple very knowledgeable in ilang-ilang are former DA high value commercial crops director Rene Espino for production and UPLB biotech director Teresita Espino for oil extraction and processing.

Ilang-ilang is considered an aphrodisiac, especially in Indonesia where the flowers are spread on the marriage bed of newly wed couples. It has anti-depressant, antiseptic and sedative properties. Despite the fact that Philippine ilang-ilang has the highest quality and grade in the world, we have barely touched its large export market.

Recommendations

- Mayors should think of their community members as their biggest resource. They should trust their own ability to inspire their constituents to participate in community wide activities.

- They should not think that these activities always cost a lot of money.

- They should get assistance from government and private sources, especially the businessmen for market access and assistance. They should use the Internet extensively for the latest in product information.

- They should decide what products (or few products) to focus on depending on their limited resources. From the essential oil family alone, there are big markets for citronella, patchouli, lemon grass, vertiber and many others.

Guided by the above recommendations, it is hoped that the LGUs will fulfill their potential of being the best catalysts for creating badly needed jobs in our country.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative and former undersecretary of agriculture and of trade and industry. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

5-yr integrated seaweed dev't program pushed

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (Siap) has signed a memorandum of agreement with concerned government agencies on the implementation of the five-year national integrated seaweed development program.

The program will ensure that the Philippines maintains its position as a primary supplier of raw seaweed and carrageenan in the international market, said Siap president Benson Dakay.

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing of the MOA at the Cebu City Waterfront Hotel in Barangay Lahug this city.

In her speech after the signing, the President acknowledged the role that the LGUs will fulfill their potential in creating livelihood opportunities in many parts of the country including Mindanao.

he seaweed industry, she said, helped close the gap between the employed and the unemployed as well as bring peace in Mindanao.

She cited the experience of Hadji Sali Calbi, a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), who came down from the mountain to raise seaweed.

Hadji Sali is one of the pioneers of seaweed farmers who contributed to the improvement of seaweed farmers in Tawi-tawi, said the President.

Calbi was with the MNLF from 1971 to 1980, after which he decided to focus his efforts on seaweed farming.

He planted seaweed for two years and then became a seaweed trader supplying seaweed to the Shemberg group.

He is now based in Sitangkay, Tawi-tawi where he has organized the Seaweed Planters and Traders Multipurpose Cooperative.

The municipality of Sitangkay has about 30,000 hectares suitable for seaweed farming.

The country's annual seaweed production averages only 120,000 metric tons with only a portion of suitable areas for seaweed farming being utilized.

EU seen reducing tariff on RP tuna

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES scored a victory in its bid to export tuna to Europe at lower tariff rates, European Commission's head of delegation to the Philippines Jan de Kok said.

De Kok said in a press conference last Tuesday that the mediation panel consisting of representatives from the World Trade Organization had granted the proposal of the Philippines and Thailand seeking the lowering of tariffs on their tuna exports to not more than 12 percent.

De Kok said it was agreed upon earlier that the countries concerned would abide by whatever decision the mediation panel would make.

"Members of the European Commission are now reviewing the mediation panel's decision and it may be implemented by the end of May," said De Kok.

Although De Kok did not elaborate on the conditions set by the panel, Agriculture sources said the tariff cuts on Philippine and Thai tuna exports might not be applied across the board. This means a minimum access volume (MAV) might be set by the European countries.

In that case, exports beyond the MAV will be slapped a higher tariff of, most likely, 24 percent.

Europe is the country's third biggest market for canned tuna. The largest remains the US (38 percent), followed by Singapore, accounting for 16 percent of total exports.

In a related development, local exporters have agreed to pack their products in pouches in order to be able to enjoy the same duty-free privilege given by the US to Andean countries.

The US government adopted major policy changes that are expected to benefit local tuna exporters. One of these is the change in the basis for MAV setting.

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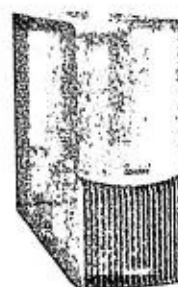


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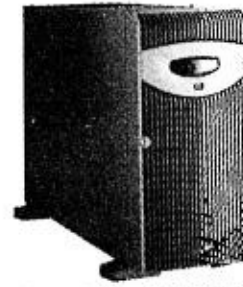


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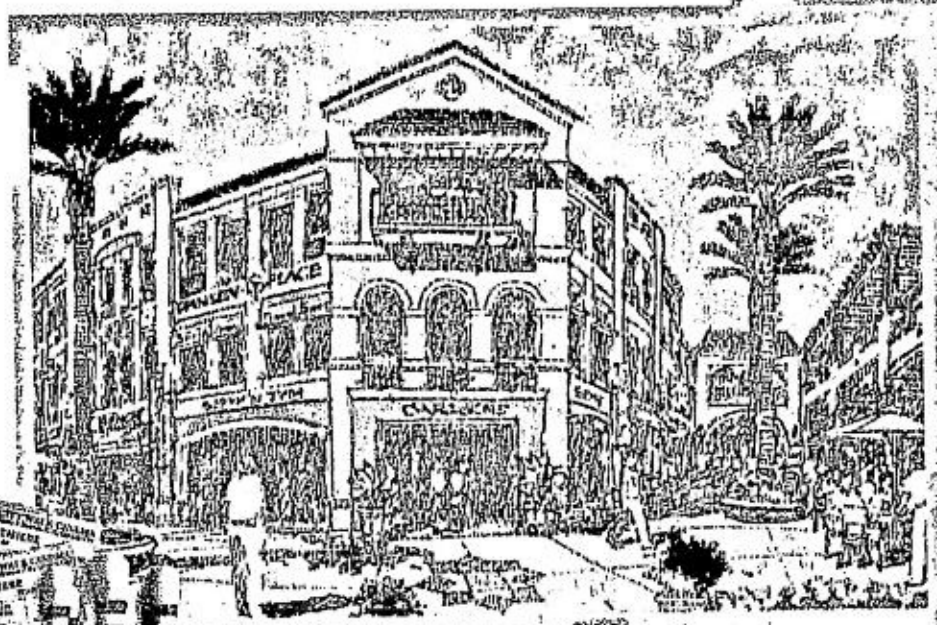


City Walk I: The meeting place of choice for lovers of food and fun

Reinventing the metro's dining and entertainment scene, City Walk I brings in the yuppies and the beautiful people to its vibrant, lush and pedestrian-friendly streetscape. This day-and-night fun hub abounds with trendy restaurants, cafés and bistros that dish up gastronomic specialties from the East and West. Apart from its famed alfresco feasts, City Walk I delights with a regular offering of outdoor concerts and shows.

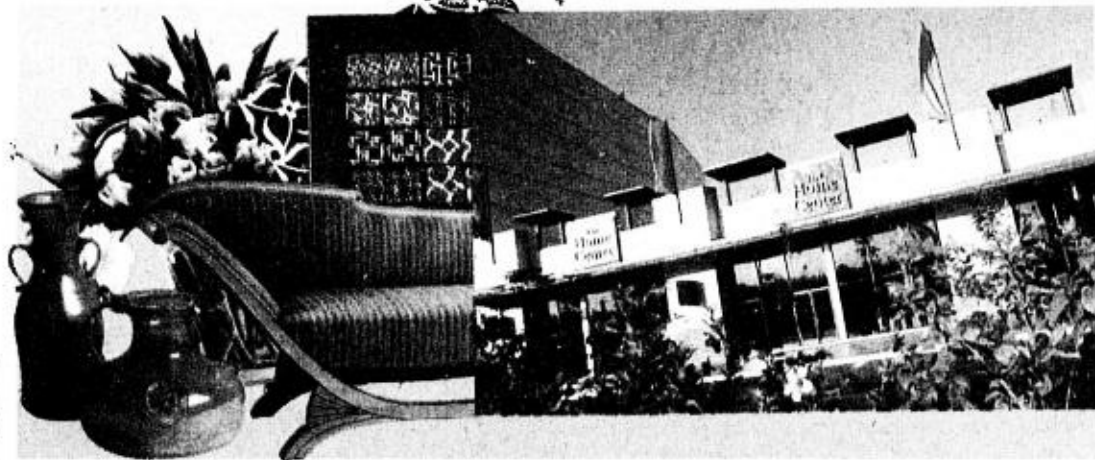
City Walk II: More options for filling up and chilling out

Lined up along City Walk II are more dining and entertainment choices for Eastwood City habitués. This expansion of City Walk I, expected to open for business by December this year, features a digital cinema complex plus a bowling and billiard center for sophisticated leisure seekers. Echoing the cozy, Miami-inspired theme of Eastwood Parkview, City Walk II also hosts new shops and cafés surrounded by palm trees.



Fashion Square and The Home & Lifestyle Center: The essentials of style for you and your home

Nestled on the fringes of City Walk I are two show houses of the latest concepts in personal fashion and home furnishings. Fashion Square is a beauty and lifestyle hub that offers the best in fashion, specialty items, personal care services and alfresco dining. The Home & Lifestyle Center, on the other hand, presents homemakers with a variety of design options to recreate their homes—from furniture to accessories and decors inspired by European, American and Asian lifestyles.



Fitness First: An internationally renowned fountain of well-being

For health buffs, Fitness First is a one-stop center with first-rate gym equipment, facilities and services. Best known for its personalized training programs, Fitness First offers members one-to-one sessions with professional instructors, along with exclusive benefits and attractive health and fitness packages. Situated at the ground floor of TechnoPlaza One, Fitness First is within easy reach of both the homes and offices of Eastwood City.



Eastwood City



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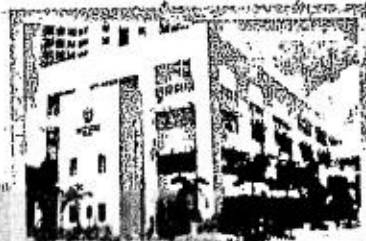
The CyberMall: A one-stop hub for the latest in IT and electronics gadgetry

Opening by July 2003, the CyberMall brings together the leading retailers of electronics, communication services and IT-related products including General Electric, Globe Telecom, Electroworld and Semicon. Patterned after IT malls in Hong Kong, this one-stop IT-and-electronics hub is divided into three product-specific zones. The first level offers electronic items; the second level, computing devices and the third level, mobile phone products. The CyberMall also features a concept food alley, network gaming arcades and Internet cafés.



CyberPark: The technology workplace

Home to a formidable roster of technology companies such as IBM, Citibank, eTelecare International, Trend Micro, TOEI Animation and BayanTrade.com, the Eastwood City CyberPark is an emblem of forward-looking corporate dynamism in the Philippines. The CyberPark, the country's first economic zone dedicated to information technology, boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities, and has promoted local talent and expertise in various IT industries from call centers to animation and anti-virus software development.



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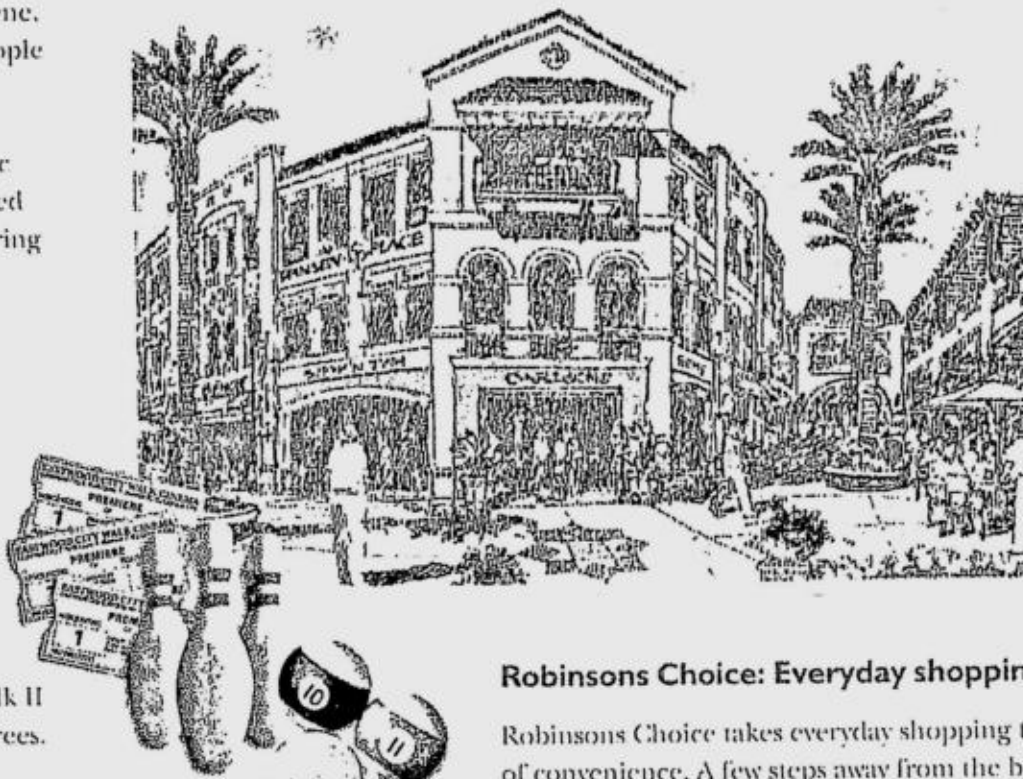


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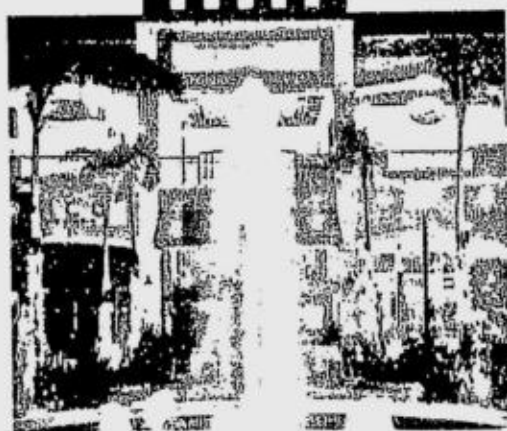
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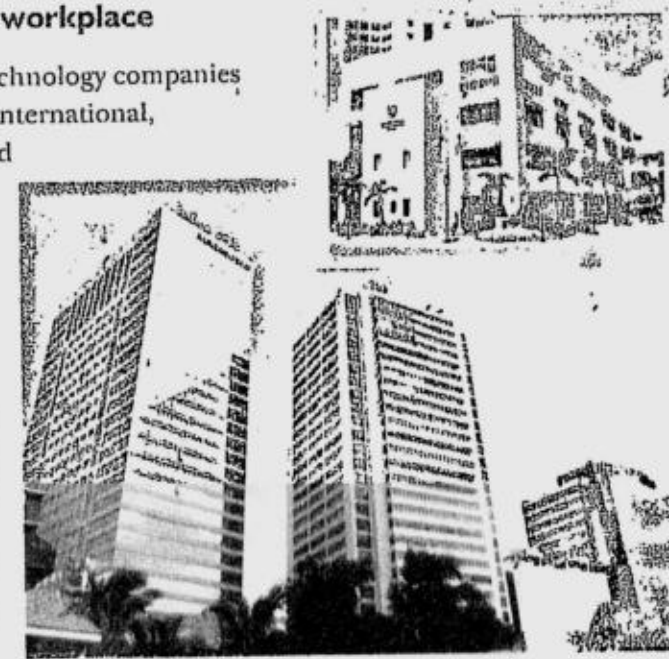
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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

15 business ideas to get into this May

By Marlo Sanchez
Contributor

THE HEAT is on and the rush for fresh summer business ideas is boiling hot.

Any business idea is okay so long as there's money in it. Money for summer outings, next school year's tuition, new clothes, or just enough to reload the cell phone every week.

Bored housewife? There's money out there to make plus a lot of things to do.

Most people on the look out for summer businesses want quick money, low start up capital, easy to sell stuff, and more importantly, fun to do.

Here are a few tips on that summer business idea to make your summer cash bountiful:

1. Buy and sell textbooks. Contact students who are willing to sell their textbooks at 40 percent the original cost (on con-

signment basis) and re-sell them at 60 percent original cost. Open a booth at your school and if that's not allowed, rent space just near the school gates. Include plastic book covering service to get additional income.

2. Ukay-ukay buyer. Great bargains but too tough to hunt for. If you have the time to spare and an eye for fashion, you can rummage through tons of used clothing. You can hunt for specific orders of your customers or just buy what's in clothes and re-sell at a mark-up to your customers. Hint: Look for signature clothes!

3. Beads and fashion jewelry. Easy to do at home from Monday to Friday. Come weekends, you can sell and display your wares at weekend garage sales or after church services.

4. Cell cards and cell phones. Oops! It's not just a summer business. It's an all year round business. You can buy

cards at wholesale for around P275 and re-sell them at P290. Cell cards move fast, you know?

5. Home repainting and cleaning. Anyone can do house painting, can't you? Many homeowners schedule general house cleaning during the summer. You can provide the labor. Ask your buddies to join in.

6. Door-to-door fish and meat delivery. One banyera of fish is about 40-45 kilos. You don't have 40 neighbors who will buy one kilo each? Buy live hogs, butcher it at home and make home made fiesta lechon. Get pre-orders on Saturdays for lunchtime delivery next day on Sundays.

7. Cakes and cookies. Yummy! Who can resist home made cakes and cookies. Get pre-orders during the week for those weekend get-togethers. Tip: Chocolate flavor is always a bestseller.

8. Car wash and detailing.

Twenty college or high school boys and girls plus buckets of water and rags near the church or near a subdivision gate is a sure fire way to get people to have their car washed squeaky clean. At P50 per car for a standard wash plus revenues from auto detailing fees, there's money to be made. You don't have to have those expensive water sprayers. Good old-fashioned *balde at tabo* would do.

9. Sportsfest organizer. Organize a summer basketball league, or volleyball, or bowling. What's left over the teams' entry fees is what you make.

10. Tour and vacation organizer. Organize a day trip to Manaoag, Pangasinan or the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ. In the nearby provinces, you can even organize a day trip to SM Megamall or the Festival Mall in Alabang. How about a 2-day, 1-night trip to Puerto Galera?

11. Halo-halo stand. At P15 per cup, it can give a net profit of about P8 per cup. How many cups do you think you can sell in a day? Offer home delivery service in your neighborhood. Might as well add squid balls, siomai and kikiam to your menu.

12. Swimming classes. What a cool way to do business. You're soaked in water all day long and still make money coaching kids and adults how to swim. Excellent business for people who are members or former members of your school's swim team. Offer softdrinks and hotdogs during swim breaks for additional income.

13. Preschool and kids activity organizer. What a relief for moms and grandmas to get kids out of the house even for just a couple of hours. In your house, you can organize story-telling activities or just plain watching kids' TV programs. You can also

organize a trip to the zoo.

14. Balut, chicharon, mani, chips, lugaw and beer. There's always a party going on in the neighborhood. Also offer free delivery of freezer cold beer or premixed gin pomelo. Presto! You have a hot summer night cool off party going on!

15. Sunday bibingka. Set up a stand near your church. It's December during the summer! Add goat's cheese and itlog na pula for toppings, it's a bestseller!

Still looking for that great business idea for summer? You better act fast. Soon, summer will be over and the rains will come to dampen your moneymaking spirits.

(The author is the best-selling author of three business books on how to start and manage your own business. His Pinoybisnes books serve as guide books for many new entrepreneurs. The books are available at the National Book Store and Powerbooks)



LESTER YU with one of his stall assistants.

Engineer aims to make fortune in fruit drinks

LESTER Yu is a 28-year-old Industrial Engineer graduate of La Salle who has an MBA from the University of the Philippines.

The enterprising young man worked as branch manager for a bank and went to night classes for his MBA. In between work and classes, he saved and kept an eye on successful business ventures.

"I would say that luck played a major role in my very first business venture. During that time my Hong Kong-based girlfriend told me about this new craze called pearl shakes. At the same time Zagu and Orbitz pearl shake stands were mushrooming all over the country. So, with money saved from my salary I caught the pearl shake boom of 2000 and started Lush Coolers," informed Lester.

Operating from home, Lester's pearl shake venture soon grew to 75 Lush Cooler franchises that span Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. And before the fad fizzled out Lester pulled out of it by 2001.

"Like all fads I knew it wasn't going to last for long. I had the foresight to pull out when it was nearing its tail end.

"I kept the small office and my staff and went into the import business specifically educational toys and giftwares. It's small scale compared to the other importers but with great prospects if handled correctly. By December 2001, I set up Fruitas. It started as a fresh fruit stall in West Avenue, Quezon City. The stall was doing so good that I began an expansion plan."

He set up Fruitas Fruit Juice Carts. "Together with my small staff we developed our own juices and shakes and shortlisted reliable suppliers of imported fruits from Divisoria and local fruits from farm owners of outlying provinces for our weekly supply.

"I applied for a stall space at SM. I knew this was the only way I could gain a foothold into the retailing business and earn my reputation as a reliable supplier. I came prepared for the rigorous interview SM conducts on aspiring stall owners and I didn't mind waiting for long hours to get their approval."

Hard work paid off when he

was granted a space at SM Manila on Feb. 1, 2002. By the end of the year, Lester had 10 Fruitas stores all over the city. Four are company owned, with two as partnership and four as franchises.

"I used the build and sell technique for franchises. For P150,000 I will supply you a cart, fresh fruit supply, equipment and manpower training. All that a franchiser has to do is take over once the Fruitas Cart is installed.

Fruitas is all about fresh fruit juices and shakes without any preservatives. It's all about pleasurable drinking at very affordable prices. Imagine a tall brimming glass of four seasons for only P50.

"I've seen how much we have evolved into a health-conscious country. More and more people are going back to the basics in the hope of maintaining a simple and healthy lifestyle. So, I am taking this opportunity to further this healthy lifestyle with fresh fruit drinks. In fact, right now I am in the midst of developing bottled Calamansi and Dalandan Coolers for wholesaling. This will mean a wider market reach for my franchisees and me. More business opportunities for everybody—employees and employers alike," explained the confident entrepreneur.

He believes that the Philippines has one of the strongest growth potential in the Asian region. "We have both the natural and manpower resources to create a high-performing domestic economy. I just wish the government would shift their economic efforts to backing up small to medium scale businesses. I believe this is where it all starts.

The young entrepreneur is not also daunted by crisis. "You don't give up. You believe in your product and work toward making it one of the biggest selling products in the market. You'll be surprised how far this belief will take you.

"Well, at 40 I want to look back and see myself as a simple man who dreamt big. At 40 I wanna be a tycoon like all the great ones that came before me," said Lester Yu without batting an eyelash.

Mother's hard work bears sweet mangoes that could earn dollars

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, Zambales—Through its century-old mango trees, mostly found in the north, Zambales is no doubt among the pioneers and leaders in mango production in the country.

Mango made this province famous worldwide when the Guinness Book of World Records listed its celebrated "Dinamulag" (carabao variety) as the sweetest mango in 1995.

Mango, in fact, covered the biggest crop area in Zambales.

Agriculture officials in the province said 19,732 hectares of available land in the towns of San Marcelino, Botolan, Cabangan and Sta. Cruz can still be developed into commercial plantations.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., in his recent visit here, said the newly discovered strain of the carabao mango, the "Sweet Elena" variety, is ideal for cultivation for the export market.

The National Seed Industry Council of the Department of Agriculture has officially registered the "Sweet Elena" variety.

Lorenzo said "Sweet Elena" possesses "superior qualities" such as juiciness, sweetness, the absence of fibrous material in its flesh and thickness of its pulp.

Weighing around 700 grams, "Sweet Elena" was named after Elena Moselina, the mother of its developer and owner, Nida Malabed of Sta. Cruz town.

Malabed, 46, said her mother, who was herself a mango grower during her time, managed to send her children to school through mango farming.

Malabed and her four siblings own a 10-hectare mango plantation in Barangay Sabang in Sta.

Cruz, where they developed the "Sweet Elena" variety.

During the mango festival held here last week, the "Sweet Elena" was awarded the "biggest mango" entry among other varieties produced by the other towns.

The Zambales development plan said there is a growing international demand for Philippine mango, whether processed or fresh.

Overseas sales of fresh Philippine mango average 41,356 metric tons a year. Most of these are shipped to Hong Kong and Japan, DA records showed.

The document said the country is exploring the possibility of expanding the market to South Korea, Switzerland, Northern Ireland and Belgium.

Australia could also be a potential market once policies for export and import of agricultural products between the two countries are ironed-out, it said.

More than 8,300 hectares of land in Zambales are devoted to mango growing. Three mango varieties—carabao, piko and Indian—are grown in 556,965 trees, mostly in backyards.

About 32 percent (2,130 hectares) of land devoted to mango growing in the province is classified as commercial plantations.

The province's development plan for the mango industry showed that the carabao mango ranks third among the top fruit exports of the country. This mango variety comes next after banana and pineapple.

Zambales has 270,716 fruit bearing trees of carabao mango that yields an average of 28 kg a tree, records from the provincial agriculture office showed.

Hilaria de la Cruz, provincial



ELENA (right) with husband Rudy and daughter Nida.

agricultural technologist, said most of these trees are grown in backyards.

But Juanito Posadas, provincial agriculturist, said the province's yield is "very low" compared with other major mango producing provinces in the country.

He said the entry of new pests and diseases and the little knowledge on the proper use of pesticides caused a decline in mango production in the province last year.

At least 6,059 people are engaged in mango growing in Zambales, most of them in the towns of Botolan and Iba.

Acknowledging the "big potential" of Zambales mango, the Provincial Development Council's economic sectoral committee (Econseccom) created the Zambales Mango Industry Development Council (ZMIDC) to prepare and formulate the Zambales Mango Industry Development Plan (ZMIDP).

The council oversees the growth and development of the local mango industry.

"I am aware of the issues and problems besetting the province's

mango industry, the mango farmers who are small growers confronting their everyday needs and farming activities; also their struggles to attain and live a decent life," said Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

"We have already initiated the establishment of common trading post for mango as collection and marketing centers to help our local mango farmers," said Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II.

Lorenzo earlier urged local officials to create a marketing strategy to help mango growers sell Zambales mangoes in local and international markets.

He said the local government should make a "better structure" for the Zambales mango industry and review the process of selling the produce in the market.

He said despite the "good quality" of Zambales mangoes, the industry remained undeveloped.

Lorenzo led the inauguration here of the P5-million Agribusiness Service Center to help local farmers. The center will serve as a trading post and a mango collection and marketing center.

Are allowances taxable?

Q: ARE ALLOWANCES (i.e. transportation and recreational allowances for managers) taxable? What's the maximum allowance that an individual can receive?

Can this be bigger than his basic pay? Can he just supply official receipts (ORs), in lieu of paying taxes?

A: In general, allowances (i.e. transportation, representation), constitute compensation income, and are thus taxable. Compensation means all remuneration for services performed by an employee for his employer under an employee-employer relationship, unless specifically excluded by the Tax Code. Fees, salaries, wages, allowances, commissions, taxable bonuses and other income of similar nature constitute compensation income and are taxable and therefore subject to withholding tax.

However, any amount paid specifically, either as advances or reimbursements for traveling, representation and other bona fide ordinary and necessary expenses incurred or reasonably expected to be incurred by the employee in the performance of his

duties are not compensation subject to withholding tax if the following conditions are met:

- It is for the ordinary and necessary traveling and representation or entertainment expenses paid or incurred by the employee in the pursuit of the trade, business or profession, and

- The employee is required to account/liquidate for the foregoing expenses in accordance with the specific requirements of substantiation for each category of expenses pursuant to Section 34 of the code.

Q: What's the maximum allowance that an individual can receive? Can this be bigger than his basic pay?

A: There is no limit on the amount of allowance that an employee can receive from the employer provided that the corresponding amount of withholding tax on such allowance is remitted to the BIR.

However, if the allowance is used by the employee for the ordinary and necessary representation or entertainment expenses in the performance of his duties

and, therefore, not considered as compensation subject to withholding tax, the ceilings and guidelines on entertainment and recreational (EAR) expenses prescribed under Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 10-2002 dated July 10, 2002 must be observed. RR 10-2002 limits the maximum EAR expenses as follows:

1. Taxpayers engaged in the sale of goods/properties—50 percent of net sales (i.e. gross sales less sales returns/allowances and sales discount)

2. Taxpayers engaged in the sale of services (including exercise of profession and use or lease of properties)—one percent of net revenues (i.e. gross revenues less discounts)

3. Taxpayers engaged in the sale of both goods and services—apportionment formula

Apportionment Formula:

Net sales/Net revenues

X EAR Expenses

Total net sales and net revenues

Q: Can he just supply official receipts (ORs), in lieu of paying taxes?

A: One of the requisites for deductibility of EAR expenses is substantiation. These expenses must be duly substantiated by adequate proof. The official receipts or invoices, or bills or statements of accounts, should be in the name of the taxpayer claiming the deduction.

The claimed EAR expenses are subject to verification and audit for purposes of determining deductibility as well as compliance with the substantiation requirements.

The ceiling provided in RR No. 10-2002 shall apply only to EAR expenses paid or incurred beginning Sept. 1, 2002 regardless of the taxpayer's accounting period.

(Tax Tips is a public service of SGV & Co., to give readers a basic understanding of current tax laws. Answers to queries may not cover all potential tax liabilities and issues arising from and all reportorial requirements for taxable transactions. Readers are advised to consult their tax advisers or the Bureau of Internal Revenue. In no event shall SGV & Co. be liable for damages or claims, actual or otherwise, including those arising from tax assessments, on account of any advice given by Tax Tips.)

Mirant overstated earnings by \$188M

ATLANTA—Energy supplier Mirant Corp. said Wednesday it overstated earnings by \$188 million over a two-year period, and cited hefty restructuring charges as it reported a \$2.4 billion loss for 2002.

Atlanta-based Mirant had delayed the release of its 2002 earnings until completing the audit, which showed it overstated income by \$159 million in 2001 and \$29 million in 2000.

Mirant announced in November that it overstated net income by \$41 million from 1999 to 2002.

Accounting firm KPMG performed an independent audit of those years, and Mirant filed the findings with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday.

Mirant said it's still preparing revised quarterly earnings for 2001 and 2002, and hopes to release its now-delayed first quarter earnings for 2003 as soon as possible.

Chief executive Marce Fuller said the audit did not find any fraud. The company attributed the misstatements to accounting errors and errors in its gas inventory. It recently appointed a new chief financial officer.

"With the completion of the

2002 audit and readits of 2001 and 2000, we end a period that has been very frustrating for our stakeholders, employees and management," Fuller said. "This is a critical step in restoring confidence in Mirant."

On Wednesday, however, it cautioned that there is a "going concern" related to its financing of its \$8.9 billion in debt because of uncertainty related to those efforts. The stock is still down 90 percent from a peak of \$47 on May 21, 2001, trading at \$3.86 Wednesday morning. Mirant's stock has tripled in the last month and a half on news that it has received temporary waivers from its banks related to its debt.

In a proxy filing with the SEC, Mirant said it can give no assurances that the waiver will be extended beyond May 29. If it is not, or the company cannot find additional financing, it may be forced into bankruptcy, the filing says.

Revenue for 2002 was \$6.4 billion, a sharp decline from the \$8.5 billion in revenue for the prior year. Mirant cited the adoption of new accounting provisions.

Mirant, a spinoff of Southern Co., and its subsidiaries employ 7,000 people. AP

Fraud fighters crack down on Internet auction scams

WASHINGTON—Federal and state fraud fighters are cracking down on Internet auction scams that fleeced thousands of consumers out of money and merchandise.

The Federal Trade Commission announced Wednesday it is joining 33 state and local law enforcement agencies to target auction con artists with 57 actions ranging from prosecutions to warning letters.

"Real world law enforcement will not let you get away with virtual fraud," Howard Beales, chief of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said at a news conference.

He said the enforcement actions include 17 criminal cases.

Auction fraud was the No. 1 Internet-related complaint recorded by the FTC last year.

Many of the cases included in the FTC's "Operation Bidder Beware" involve scams where consumers win an online auction and pay but never receive any merchandise.

One man allegedly added a twist by stealing identities to cover his tracks when he

failed to deliver to winning bidders, the FTC said. The man, who was not identified by the FTC, allegedly opened bank accounts and post office boxes using identities from the records of a suburban Chicago hotel and the names of people he didn't like.

"Consumers and law enforcers believed the identity theft victims were the ones who had bilked the consumers out of their money," the FTC said. A federal court in Chicago ordered a halt to the scam and froze the man's assets so they can be used to repay victims, the FTC said.

In another case, scam operators set up an online escrow service called Premier Escrow that was supposed to prevent fraud by holding auction payments until winning bidders could receive and inspect merchandise they had won, the FTC said. The scammers allegedly acted as both buyers and sellers and directed transactions to the fraudulent escrow service so they could steal consumer payments for items including computers and a car.

The FTC said a federal court in Virginia

has ordered a halt to that scam, dismantled the scammers' website and frozen the defendants' assets pending trial.

Many of the scams occur on eBay because of the large volume of auctions there, said Eileen Harrington, the FTC's director of marketing practices. She said eBay has been very cooperative working with law enforcement to combat auction fraud.

The FTC and the regional agencies are launching a campaign to educate people about Internet auction fraud. They said consumers should:

- Save all transaction information.
- Be familiar with an auction site's protections for buyers, and don't assume that all auction sites have the same rules.

- Learn about a seller before bidding on an item, and avoid doing business with sellers who can't be identified or try to move a transaction off an auction site with promises of a better deal.

- Investigate unfamiliar escrow or online payment services to make sure they are legitimate. AP

Australian investors pounce on world's oldest profession

MELBOURNE—Australian investors plunged enthusiastically into the world's oldest profession on Thursday when a Melbourne company became the globe's first listed brothel.

Shares of the bordello enterprise, which hired Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss to spice up its stock listing and touts itself as a recession-proof, five-star hotel, doubled on their first day of trading. About 1.4 million shares of the company—called The Daily Planet—changed hands.

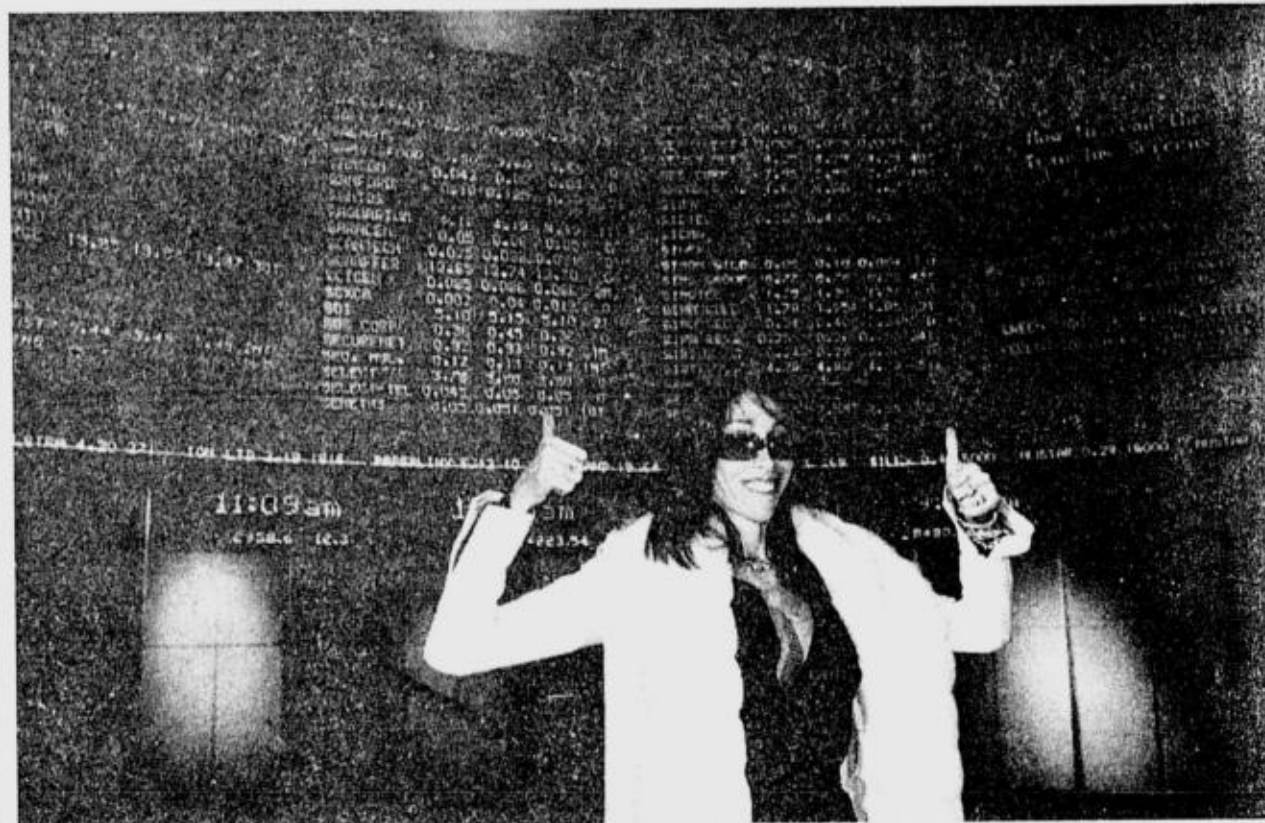
"Obviously the price is going to go up. It's sex...and everyone knows sex is a smart investment," Fleiss told reporters just before the shares started trading.

The Daily Planet's brothel, based in a Melbourne suburb, has a bar lounge and 18 themed rooms with names like Venus and Xanadu. Some of the rooms have beds and heavily chlorinated spas large enough for several guests at a time.

The company lured "mum and dad" investors with the prospect of a steady 8.4 percent dividend, stemming from revenue the company makes on its \$115 an hour room charge. Guests pay the call girls directly.

"It is fairly defensive isn't it. Come rain or shine, I guess the more stress one has, the more one is going to use it," said Lucinda Chan, a director at Macquarie Equities.

"You would never think that a brothel would be listed but it certainly has, and in this country first—the place down under." Daily Planet raised \$3.75 million (\$2.3 million) after selling 7.5 million shares in the private arm of its business.



Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss poses for photographers at the Australian Stock Exchange.

REUTERS

Shares rose to \$1.09 from an initial public offering price of \$0.50, giving the company a market capitalization of \$36.5 million.

The company is expected to book revenues of \$460,000 this year from rent paid by the Melbourne brothel. That's a paltry sum compared with the estimated \$7 million that changed hands at the bordello last year, most of it guest payments to call girls.

But the company has ambitious plans to become one of the world's largest sex companies, first aiming to build a brothel in Sydney, and then possibly following up on an idea from Heidi Fleiss to build a "Sex Disneyland" with fantasy rides.

"You may be able to have a simulator of a six-mile high club," Chief Executive Andrew Harris told reporters.

The listing marked the company's second attempt to enter the stock exchange. It aborted its first try in 1994 in the face of then-new Victoria state legislation that sub-

jected all investors in the sex industry businesses to police checks.

To get the float off the ground this time, the company decided to incorporate the property side of the business separately from the brothel operation, so that investors would not be subject to the Prostitution Control Act.

The bulk of the listed company—26 million in non-tradable shares—is held mainly by the brothel's original owner, Chairman John Trimble. Trimble and Harris largely handled the offering themselves, although a small Sydney brokerage, Cameron Stockbrokers Ltd, sold \$10,000 worth of shares.

"Not one broker in Australia (besides Cameron) would deal with us before the float. But we've had half a dozen calls today from brokers who've said they would now be happy to work with us," Harris told Reuters.

The Daily Planet turned to notorious Madam Fleiss to help it market the float, naming her its international ambassador. Reuters

US stocks fall on dismal manufacturing report but post monthly gain

NEW YORK—Wall Street posted its second monthly gain despite apathetic trading Wednesday, as investors weighed a dismal manufacturing report against Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's statement that the economy should rebound. Price, he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 22.90, or 0.3 percent, at 8,480.09, following a two-day gain of 196.64.

The broader market also finished lower. The Nasdaq composite index fell 6.99, or 0.5 percent, to 1,464.31. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 0.92, or 0.1 percent, to 916.92.

With the war winding down in Iraq, investors have become more upbeat about the economic outlook, particularly as a wide range of companies have reported stronger-than-expected earnings in recent weeks.

Still, analysts say stocks are vulnerable to bouts of profit-taking.

Indeed, the three main gauges closed a second month of gains Wednesday, a feat not seen since last November. In April, the Dow finished up 6.1 percent, the Nasdaq higher 9.2 percent, and the S&P 500 up 8.1 percent.

On Wednesday, Greenspan told the House Financial Services Committee he still believes the economic recovery will accelerate once the uncertainties surrounding Iraq are over. He also left open the possibility of more rate cuts if business investment continues to lag.

Meanwhile, the Chicago pur-

chasing managers index fell to 47.6 in April from 48.1 in March, reflecting a slowing of manufacturing in the Midwest. That stirred some investor worry about the Institute for Supply Management's upcoming report Thursday on the national manufacturing sector.

"Greenspan suggested the US economy should grow faster, but I don't think many people are viewing his comments with a whole lot of conviction," said Todd Clark, head of listed equity trading at Wells Fargo Securities.

"The bottom line is, because we've had no meaningful (economic) upturn in the past, the market is kind of muted," he said.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber lost 23 cents to \$5.72 after the tire maker reported a first-quarter loss that was wider than expectations.

JDS Uniphase fell 9 cents to \$3.23 after the maker of fiber-optic parts reported a narrower fiscal third-quarter loss.

Gainers included Clear Channel Communications, which rose \$1.42 to \$39.11, after the world's largest radio station operator posted lower first-quarter profits that were in line with analysts' estimates.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 9 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was moderate.

The Russell 2000 index, which tracks smaller company stocks, rose 2.90, or 0.7 percent, to 398.68. AP

American industrial icon fades away after 100 years

PHILADELPHIA—Bethlehem Steel Corp., the mighty company that made the skeleton of Rockefeller Plaza, beams for the Golden Gate Bridge and armor plate for countless warships, faded into history Wednesday with the stroke of a pen.

The bankrupt steelmaker's executives and lawyers began signing paperwork transferring ownership of the company's mills to International Steel Group, a new steel company based in Cleveland.

It was a quiet end for an American industrial icon once considered indestructible.

Once the paperwork is complete—a tedious process officials said could take until May 6—the company, which employed 300,000 people during its World War II peak, will retain a small secretariat staff for a few months, then vanish.

The company's 11,000 steelworkers kept their jobs Wednesday as ISG took control at Bethlehem's plants, but about 450 managers and executives around the country were laid off, said

Bethlehem's chief executive, Robert S. Miller.

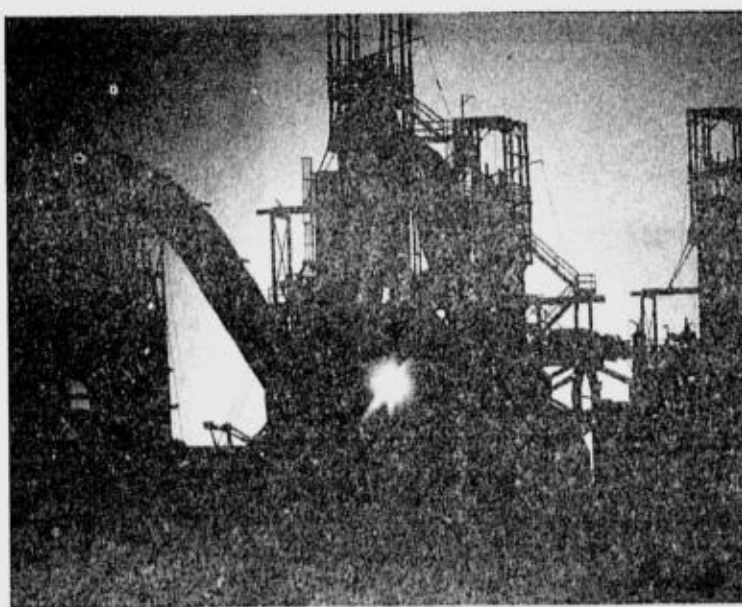
Industry consolidation, overseas competition, and Bethlehem Steel's own legacy led to the company's demise, he said. Until the \$1.5 billion sale, the company provided pensions for more than 100,000 retirees and their dependents, far more than it could support.

The ownership change will mean little in Bethlehem, the small city about an hour's drive north of Philadelphia that the company called home since its founding.

The massive blast furnaces on the banks of the Lehigh River went cold in 1995. The beam yards shuttered in 1996. The last coke oven closed in 1998.

Even longer ago, the bulk of Bethlehem Steel's operations shifted to more modern plants in Burns Harbor, Indiana, and Sparrows Point, Maryland.

Those plants kept operating Wednesday. There were no ceremonies at either facility to mark the ownership change.



THE SUN sets behind the blast furnaces of Bethlehem Steel Oct. 15, 2001, in Bethlehem, Pa.

AP

Bethlehem Steel's demise will have a bigger impact on retirees, whose pensions were taken over by a government protection fund Wednesday and whose health benefits are being eliminated.

Jerry Green, a union leader

who started at the company's Bethlehem plant as a bricklayer's helper at age 18 and worked until it shut in 1998, said the demise left a generation of workers bitter.

"We feel betrayed," he said.

"When I first starting working there, I felt like the whole industrial world revolved around steel. We were proud to be steelworkers. When you went to the banks, when you went to the restaurants, or anywhere in town and told them you were a steelworker, they looked up to you."

Now, he said, they look with pity.

Bethlehem Steel was never the country's largest steelmaker, but it was always one of its most influential.

The titan's lineage dates to 1857, when the Saucona Iron Co. opened on Bethlehem's south side. Those facilities were eventually absorbed by Bethlehem Steel Corp., formed in 1904 by industrialist Charles M. Schwab.

The company enjoyed an explosive period of growth as the nation entered the era of skyscrapers in the 1920s and 1930s, and it eventually acquired mills, shipyards and iron and coal mines nationwide.

Over the decades, the company's steel was used to build the

US Supreme Court Building and Madison Square Garden.

The company's greatest contribution, though, may have come during World War II, when it forged cannon, made airplane cylinders, rolled armor plate and built 1,121 ships.

The good times, though, didn't last. As imported steel grew more popular in the 1970s and 1980s, the company closed mills nationwide, leaving steel towns like Johnstown, Steelton and Lackawanna, New York, devastated by layoffs.

Bethlehem Steel declared bankruptcy in October of 2001, one of dozens of American steel companies to do so in the past 10 years. Its stock was removed from the New York Stock Exchange last June.

"In some ways, it is a sad thing for a company to last for 100 years then disappear," Lubar said. "But the folks at Bethlehem Steel will always be able to point to the New York skyline and say, 'We built that. Those are our buildings.'" AP

People, Events & Products

aespinoza@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Bankard offers interest-saddled cardholders an option

MANAGING finances for couples who are just starting out or individuals who are trying to get the most out of their available funds has become a lot easier with Bankard's introduction of its newest credit card product-myDream JCB.

Straightforward in its offer of low effective revolving interest and installment rates as well as the most affordable annual fee, myDream JCB Card is Bankard's and JCB International's response to the growing clamor for a more practical, easy-to-pay card that will cater to the general populace who are trying to wade through heaps of bills to maintain their chosen lifestyle. The myDream JCB Card will prove helpful in every aspect of the cardholder's life. "It will help her pay for her children's tuition, furnish her family's home, and pay for the little extras to which she treats herself or her family every now and then," states Bankard president and CEO, Joven Reyes.

A treat in itself, the myDream JCB Card offers its cardholders value-added features that are not common in other credit cards in the market to-

day: It has the lowest annual fee of P800 and the lowest effective revolving interest rate of 2.5 percent per month compared to the 3.25 percent to 3.5 percent charged by other credit cards in the market. It can be used for installments at low effective interest rates of 1.5 percent per month for 3 months, 1.75 percent per month for 6 months, and 2 percent per month for 12 months. "This enables one to pay less and save more for other home and family needs," Reyes noted. With myDream JCB, shopping for home appliances, furnishings and services is hassle-free. In more ways than one, it is truly a dream card.

To avail themselves of these benefits immediately, non-Bankard cardholders can apply for myDream JCB Card and simultaneously transfer the balances of their non-Bankard credit cards to myDream JCB. Balance transfer to myDream JCB, like the card itself, is simple and straightforward. To avail yourself of this feature, interested parties may call the myDream JCB Hotline at 888-1818.

An international card, myDream JCB Card is accepted in about 30,000

merchant stores ranging from retail and service stores, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, amusement centers and more.

Other value-added benefits of myDream JCB Card include a balance conversion facility that allows cardholders to convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling the myDream JCB Hotline, the flexible PEP minimum which allows the cardholder to pay only 5 percent of his total amount due; a wide payment network that makes it easy for cardholders to settle their monthly credit card bills, and a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Customer Service Hotline (888-1818) dedicated to assist myDream JCB cardholders in all their queries and needs.

myDream JCB Card, the easy-to-pay and low-interest credit card, is truly a dream card that promises to meet the needs of the present-day cardholders.

JCB is the leading international credit card brand from Japan. Bankard is a pioneer in the Philippine credit card industry and is a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.



YOUNG SCIENTIFIC INGENUITY SHINES THROUGH

Intel Technology Philippines Inc., together with the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) and the Department of Education (DepEd), recently announced the winners of the 6th Intel Philippine Science Fair (Intel PSF). 104 science research projects competed for the grand awards and the chance to represent the Philippines in the 54th Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) from May 11 to 17 in Cleveland, Ohio. Shown is Intel PSF winner in the Basic Sciences Individual Category Eigen Israel Rara (5th from left), from the Integrated Development School MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology

with his project advisers and (from left) Intel PSF mascot Chip, Intel Corp. Asia public affairs manager Chit Ventura, DOST Secretary Dr. Estrella Alabastro and Intel Technology Philippines Inc. public affairs manager Arnel Abjelina. Rara, with his project called 'Wonder Drug: A Broad Spectrum Bioactive Substance Obtained From Sibaku Tree (Caesalpinia sap-pan Linn.)' will join nine other Intel PSF winners in Ohio. The Intel PSF is an annual nationwide competition among high school students. It aims to promote science and technology consciousness among the youth through the exhibition of Science investigatory projects.

Local fiesta flavor at Ayala Center

FIESTA time came early this year at Ayala Center in Makati as it recently hosted two colorful events that gave shoppers and mallgoers an instant taste of traditional Filipino merry-making.

First to unfold was the Pahiyas sa Lucban celebrations, which featured the famous kiping and a religious procession highlighted by the karosa of San Isidro Labrador and massive higantes as well as muses wearing beautiful saya and escorts in their elegant Barong Tagalog. On sale in bahay kubo-type booths were native delicacies such as Lucban longganisa and native handicraft.

Top Lucban officials led by Mayor Serafin Dator and Vice Mayor Augusto Veluz graced the opening attended by a huge crowd, including natives of

Lucban now residing in Metro Manila.

A few days later, the Caracol Festival-billed the Mardi Gras of Makati-opened with a parade that wound around the streets of the country's premier financial district. 18 groups of dance performers from Makati public schools vied for the top prize of P20,000, to which the Department of Tourism added another P20,000.

The annual event is included in the calendar of activities of the DOT's ongoing WOW Philippines campaign designed to promote domestic tourism.

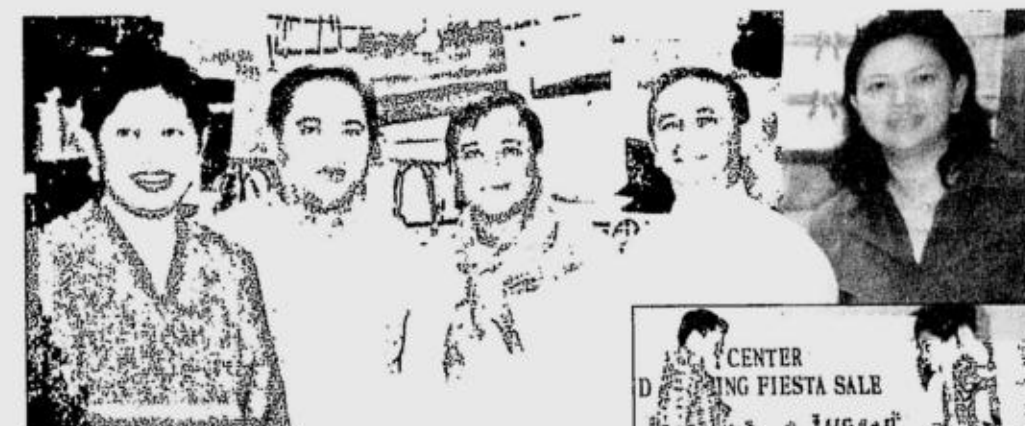
During the program, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay exhorted the public to support tourism-oriented activities. Among the guests were Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon and Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin.



MINT OF BERKLEY GIVES BACK

How does one celebrate success? Is it by throwing a grand party, a posh dinner or an out-of-town excursion? Or would it be more worthwhile to interact with orphans on one Saturday-lunching, eating, playing with them and listening to the different life stories each had to tell? This might just as well be the question asked of each participant as he or she finishes the Managers-IN-Training (MINT) Program. This unique training, undertaken by Berkley International Plans Inc. and Family First Inc., attempts to draw out the finest virtues of human nature and utilize them as tools for effective management. MINT participants are Berkley and Family First employees who have ex-

hibited great leadership potential and have, thus, been chosen by the company's top management to undergo two-and-a-half months of rigorous training. It is a makeshift 'masteral' program implemented by the company's people development department to hone the skills of outstanding employees and prepare them for higher management positions. Unlike other training programs, however, MINT caps its curriculum with a trip to the Angel's Home in Paranaque City managed by Tita Anquero. Angel's Home houses nearly 50 abandoned and abused children. Shown is the latest MINT batch with the children at Angel's Home.



AT THE Pahiyas, Lucban Mayor Serafin Dator and Vice Mayor Augusto Veluz are joined by Ayala Land officials Roe Tomeladan, CJ Jesena and Cathy Bengzon in front of a booth selling native handicraft. At right, dancers from Lucban perform the exotic tinikling.



INSULAR LIFE BACKS OFW MEET, TRADE EXHIBIT

Top executives of Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. sign a sponsorship agreement with the officers of OFW Net Foundation Inc. and OFW Holdings International Inc. for the staging of The Overseas Filipinos Worldwide Conference and Trade Exhibit at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City from May 23 to 25. Aimed at supporting the government's reintegration program for some 7 million OFWs, the conference is designed to make these modern-day heroes and their families involved in socioeconomic and entrepreneurial activities. Likewise, the trade exhibit

will showcase products and services that can help OFWs engage in small and startup businesses or find the best way to invest their resources. Signing the agreement are, from left, OFW Net director Mely Luya, OFW Holdings chief operating officer Norman Gacula, and Insular Life senior vice president for sales operations group Marietta Gomez and vice president for business development Robby Ventura. Looking on are project manager Dolores Gregorio (left) of Fiera de Manila Inc. and Insular Life market development assistant Ethel Joy Salazar.

Fun, excitement at McDo's Game KNB

MCDONALD'S let's you enjoy great fun and excitement through Game K N B at McDonald's. Win instantly with a total of over P50 million of super-thrilling cash prizes, food products, and other items.

"Game K N B at McDo enables customers to experience a fun and exciting game and instantly winning, without waiting for raffle draws", managing director Joseph Lau said.

This grand and exciting promo is from April 26 to May 25. A single purchase of at least P50 lets you have one game card. Simply scratch off the silver film to see if you've won instant prizes like cash, free products or a special offer coupon.

Submit the game card at any McDonald's store to get the food items and P1,000 cash prize. Also to be won are P10,000 and P100,000 cash prizes.



NETOPIA OPENS 45TH BRANCH

Netopia Internet Café recently opened its 45th branch at the SM Megamall. With 131 workstations and powered by PLDT DSL for high-speed Internet, the Netopia SM Megamall branch is the largest Internet café in the Philippines. It also boasts of state-of-the-art equipment from Intel, LG and Asus,

among others. Shown are, from left, Doy Vea, Newnet Holdings Inc., director, Randy Kanapi, Epsom Philippines marketing manager, Jesus Cruz, Mandaluyong City vice mayor, Ariel Roda, ePLDT managing director, and Henry Jang, LG Collins Electronics Manila Inc. president.

ProductFiles

UMC's Frontier lords over competition

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. (UMC), assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, has once again dominated the LCV sales for the 1st quarter, with Nissan Frontier leading the pack for the combined 4X2 and 4X4 pick up category.

In a report filed by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMA) recently, UMC registered a total of 1,181 units sold from January to March, eating up 19.06 percent of the total market share in the LCV category and knocking down other automotive heavyweights.

Consolidating its title as the country's best-selling pick-up for three consecutive years, UMC's Nissan Frontier posted a segment-leading 569 units sold for the first quarter of 2003. The recently introduced Frontier 2003 model further stamped its class in the market leadership for the 4X4/4X2 double cab com-



pack pick up segment with a dominating 37.2-percent share. Last month's sales feat of Frontier totaled 188 units or 33.57 percent of the overall market share, besting its closest rival.

Nissan Frontier's latest 2003 model clearly continues to live up to its name as the best on-and off-road vehicle trusted by the most discriminating set of consumers for its high performance, durability, style and comfort.

The new Frontier and other Nissan light commercial vehicles such as Urvan Estate, Escapade, Shuttle, and Nissan Patrol are assembled and distributed by UMC.



CHINA'S BIGGEST TV MAKER HERE

Changhong Electric Co. Ltd., the biggest television maker in China and second biggest maker worldwide as reflected in the Sept. 16, 2002 issue of Fortune Magazine, is now a part of Filipino homes. Not limiting its distribution to its top-of-the-line product, which is television, Changhong now also offers an array of appliances to choose from, such as home air conditioners, VCD and DVD players and audio products. Changhong is one of the exhibitors of the ongoing SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta from April 26 to May 18 at the 5th level of the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2003

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Republic of the Philippines
 Supreme Court
 REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
 12th Judicial Region
 BRANCH 119
 Iloilo, Sultan Kudarat

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGE OF NAME OF
 DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. BARILEA, OTHERWISE
 KNOWN AS JOSE MARIA BARILEA AND DANIEL
 MARI G. BARILEA, ALIAS-JOMARI,

DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. BARILEA,
 Petitioner,

— versus —
 THE CITY AND LOCAL REGISTRARS
 OF DUMAGUETE CITY AND ILOILO,
 SULTAN KUADARAT, respectively,
 Respondents.

X-----X
 ORDER

A verified petition has been filed before this Court by the petitioner Daniel Jose Maria C. Barilea, praying that after due notice and hearing thereof, an Order be issued authorizing the change of his last name, from DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. Barilea to DANIEL MARI G. Barilea, as well as, the change of his last name as entered in his Certificate of Marriage, from JOSE MARI Barilea to DANIEL MARI Barilea.

Finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court is hereby ordered to appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the last publication of which should not be later than May 7, 2003. Let copies of this Order and of the Petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, as well as the respondents, and the same be posted on the Bulletin Board in the premises of this Court.

SO ORDERED
 Given this 19th day of March 2003, at Iloilo, Sultan Kudarat, Philippines

(Sgd.) GERMAN M. MALCAMPO
 Regional Trial Judge

(PDI-May 2, 4 & 6, 2003)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of UNIBAG MANUFACTURING CORPORATION with office address in Barangay Soro-Soro, Karsada, Batangas City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Export Producer of Women's Synthetic Socks/Bags and Cloth at a capacity of 1,000 MTPY with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on April 23, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BDI within one (1) week from the date of this publication issued this 25th day of April 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
 Director
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Republic of the Philippines Commission on Elections Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) through the Bids and Awards Committee (EAC) is inviting interested parties/ accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the supply and the delivery of the following, with an approved budget of Php 5.5 Million.

Lot "1"	
3 M Magic Tape "1"	50 rolls
Adding Machine Tape, white	200 rolls
Transparent Tape "1"	1,500 rolls
TSF binder 11" X 14-7/8	1,000 pieces

Lot "2"	
Envelope brown, large	292 boxes
Envelope brown, medium	242 boxes
Envelope, mailing brown with COMELEC logo	442 boxes
Envelope pay, brown as per sample	250 boxes
Envelope, mailing white windows with COMELEC logo	492 boxes
Folder, with COMELEC logo, long	64,150 pieces
Folder, expanding asst. colors	5,000 pieces
Folder, looseleaf	2,000 pieces
Magazine Rack, assorted colors	250 pieces

Lot "3"	
Staple wire, good quality	3,483 boxes
Fastener, giant metal	150 boxes
Fastener, metal	3,000 boxes
Fastener, plastic	500 boxes
Paper clip, Plastic colored, big	500 boxes
Paper clip, Plastic colored, small	4,000 boxes

Lot "4"	
Pad, yellow ruled	5,738 pads
Paper, bond A4	1,500 reams
Paper, bond long	4,738 reams
Paper, bond short	4,238 reams
Paper, carbon long	3,000 boxes
Paper, copy A4	1,500 reams
Paper, mimeo long	2,000 reams
Paper, Stationery, Comelec, short	2,731 reams
Paper, thermal 216x30, 1/2 core	918 rolls
Record book, 300 pages	2,466 pieces
Stencil, electronic	5 quires
Stencil, ordinary	753 quires
Steno notebook	200 pieces

Lot "5"	
Toner, laser printer OKI 400e	10 pieces
Toner, laserjet HP 1100	100 pieces
Toner, laserjet HP 1200, C7115A	100 pieces
Toner, laserjet HP 5/6 L490F	72 pieces
Battery, Alkaline AA	2,000 pieces

Lot "6"	
Ballpen	10,000 pieces
Ballpen, red	2,000 pieces
Pencil, with eraser #2	2,000 pieces
Sign Pen VI 200 black	150 pieces
Sign Pen V5 (blue, black, green)	2,000 pieces
Rubber band	300 parks
Correction fluid	3,000 bottles
Correction pen	200 pieces
Marker, Fluorescent	3,000 pieces

Lot "7"	
Stamp pad with ink	2,000 pieces
Ink stamping, black and violet	1,000 bottles
Ink, mimeo	1,000 bottles
IBM, typewriter Ribbon 1380999	100 spools
Typewriter ribbon, manual	5,218 spools
Drumkit for laser printer OKI 410e	5 sets
Diskette Cleaner	50 sets
MC Cleaner	50 cans
Cartridge, inkjet 51629A	40 pieces
Cartridge, Ink for Canon BJC, black	10 pieces
Cartridge, Ink for Canon BJC, colored	10 pieces

Offer may be made for one or selected lots or for all of the lots.

All prospective bidders shall be charged with a non-refundable bid fee in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 500.00).

All sealed bids will be received by the BAC on or before 10:00 a.m. and then be publicly opened at the COMELEC Session Hall at exactly 2:00 p.m. on **20 May 2003**.

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the Head of the BAC.

The COMELEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality defect contained therein, and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the Commission. Likewise, it reserves the right to review the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding and before the contract is executed. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the bidder's situation to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the COMELEC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO D. MEJOS**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), pursuant to the mandate of Republic Act 8436, invites interested parties/suppliers/manufacturers of information technology (IT) products, with solid track record, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the lease and/or lease with option to purchase the following, with an approved budget of P250 M for the first year rental:

1. 3,150 units PC – Pentium IV 1.8 GHz
Pentium IV 1.8 GHz; or higher; Intel 845G/GV/GL; 256 MB DDRAM; 64MB Video shared memory; 40GB Ultra ATA/100 (7200rpm); 3.5" 1.44 Mb floppy drive; 1 parallel port, 2 serial ports & 2 USB ports; CD-RW 40x10x40; 3 PCI slots; 10/100 Ethernet w/Wake-on-LAN; 56 kbps Internal modem; standard 102-key keyboards; 2 button mouse; Windows 2000, MS Office SBE, latest Anti-Virus software; 17" colored monitor;

2. 1,000 units PC – Pentium IV 2.4 GHz
Pentium IV 2.4 GHz; or higher; Intel 845G/GV/GL; 256 MB DDRAM; 64MB Video shared memory; 80GB Ultra ATA/100 (7200rpm); 3.5" 1.44 Mb floppy drive; 1 parallel port, 2 serial ports & 2 USB ports; CD-RW 40x10x40; 3 PCI slots; 10/100 Ethernet w/Wake-on-LAN; 56 kbps Internal modem; standard 102-key keyboards; 2 button mouse; 17" colored monitor; Windows 2000, MS Office SBE; latest anti-virus software;

3. 35 units Laptop
Intel Mobile Pentium IV 2 GHz; 400 Mhz Front Side Bus; 256 MB DDRAM; 266 MHz; DVD or CD-RW; 3.5" 1.44 MB floppy drive; 20 GB (5400 rpm or higher) SMART Hard disk drive; 56 kbps internal modem; 14" Color Display; External SVGA Port; 2 USB ports; 1 serial port & 1 parallel port; Windows 2000, MS Office SBE; latest anti-virus; battery pack; carrying case;

4. 315 units Laptop
Processor Celeron or higher or 1.7 GHz or higher; 256 MB; 20GB hard drive; CD-ROM-Drive IDE Engraver; Video Adapter

(PDI – May 2, 2003)

102 x768; 3.5" 1.44 Mb floppy drive; Graphics 15" color TFT; 2 USB ports; 1 serial port & 1 parallel port; 1 Ethernet 10/100, 1 Modem 56K; Windows 2000, MS Office SBE; latest anti-virus; battery pack; carrying case;

5. 2,000 units Dot Matrix Printers
9 pin 136 column; high speed draft; draft at @12cpi; NLQ @10 cpi; up to 500 CPS (12 CPI); Parallel, USB port, optional serial interface; Up to 64 KB receive buffer, 4,000,000 characters at Draft Auto Loading and Auto Head Gap Adjustment; MTBF at least 10,000 hours;

6. 850 units Laser Printers
16 pages per minute; 1200x1200 dpi resolution; 8 MB memory expandable to 136MB; Windows 2000 (OS); duty cycle at least 12,000 pages/month; at least 150 sheets paper feeding; parallel, USB port

7. 4,150 units UPS with Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR)
Run time 5 minutes minimum; sockets 4 minutes minimum; input voltage 220v-240v; Power output 650 va minimum; 2 years warranty for parts & services.

The required terms under the lease contract are as follows:

- Two (2) years lease/lease to purchase contract (advance payment for rental/lease for every year.);
- Maintenance of equipment included in the lease contract; and
- Technology Protection (option to upgrade memory and Hard disk capacity) without additional cost.

Only bids from the following entities shall be entertained;

- Duly licensed Filipino citizens / proprietorships;
- Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- Manufacturers, suppliers, and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers, and/or distributors who intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract, provided that Filipino ownership thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%); and
- Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority.

All prospective bidders shall be charged a non-refundable bid fee in the amount of FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000.00) payable in cash or cashier's/manager's check, payable to the COMELEC.

The bidders must submit two envelopes. The first envelope labeled "Eligibility Envelope", should contain the following documents:

I. Legal Documents

- Business Registration Documents:** Articles of Incorporation; Business Registration; DTI Certificate of Registration Current licenses & permits; Mayor's Permit; VAT Certification and;

- Others:** (1) Special Power of Attorney, duly notarized, indicating that the person/s signing the bid has the authority to sign the bid and as such, is binding upon the bidder; (2) Approval of the Board of Directors for Bidder to participate and enter into a contract, if awarded, with the COMELEC; (3) Waiver of execution by its President under the authority of its Board that it is submitting to the jurisdiction of the Philippine government and thereby waives its right to question the jurisdiction of Philippine courts; (4) Waiver executed by the President under the authority of its board, to seek and obtain writ of its board, to seek and obtain writ of injunctions of prohibition or restraining order against Purchaser to prevent and restrain the bidding procedures related thereto, the holding of bidding and any procedure related thereto, the negotiating and award of a contract to a successful bidder, and the carrying out of the awarded contract; (5) Certificate issued by bidder's duly authorized representative that, it has no record of suspension & that it is not presently suspended nor blacklisted by any Philippine government agency or by any international institution, whether in its individual capacity or as a member of a Joint Venture/Consortium; (6) Certificate that the Bidder is licensed by Bidder's country to export the goods to be supplied under the contract.

II. Technical Documents

- Total sale/lease transaction with a contract value of at least TWENTY-FIVE MILLION PESOS (Php 25,000,000.00) for same and similar type of equipment, of any year for the past three years;
- ISO 9000 Certificate of Products or its equivalent;
- Literature and Brochure; describing the equipment, the manufacturer's factory, manufacturing facilities, products and service centers;
- Certificate that if awarded the project, Bidder will submit a warranty for a minimum of two (2) years from date of delivery for units found to be damaged due to factory defect; and
- Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet, Income Statement & Statement of Cash Flow) of the Bidder's firm for the last three (3) calendar years, stamped "RECEIVED" by the appropriate government agency, or its equivalent, to show its capacity to finance the manufacture & supply of goods called for & a statement or record of volume of sales.

The second envelope, labeled "Financial Envelope", should contain the bid (Financial Proposal). The bidder shall post, as part of their bid, a uniform amount of P2.5 Million Bid Security representing one percent (1%) of the total bid amount in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cashier's or certified check valid for 120 days.

The BAC has the right to forfeit the Bid Security of the Bidder for any of the following reasons:

- If a bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Bid Form;
- If a bidder does not accept correction of arithmetical errors;
- In the case of a successful Bidder, if the bidder fails to: (I) Sign the Contract; or (II) Furnish the necessary Performance Security in an amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total contract price in the form of cash, certified check, manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit payable to the COMELEC.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **12 May 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Session Hall, COMELEC Main Building, Intramuros, Manila. Queries must be submitted in writing to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of eligibility and bid envelopes shall be on **23 May 2003** at 10:00 a.m., at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila. Opening of bids shall immediately follow.

It should be noted, however, that the above bidding schedules are subject to change.

The COMELEC reserves the right to review the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding and before the contract is executed. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the bidder's situation to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the COMELEC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO B. MEJOS**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

B4

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Services for System and Software Development for KALAH-CIDSS MIS

The Government of the Philippines received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAH-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment for consultant's services.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is currently implementing KALAH-CIDSS that aim to reduce poverty in Regions CAR, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and CARAGA. DSWD is in need of a consultancy firm which shall provide services on system and software development for KALAH-CIDSS MIS.

The service is expected to start in July 2003. All interested service providers are invited to submit their letter of interest at the address given below. Strong preference will be given to the service provider that has completed consulting services of size, complexity and technical specialty comparable to the job under consideration.

The consultants will be selected in accordance with the Procurement Guidelines set out by the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank borrowers, dated January 1997, September 1997, July 1998, November 1999 and May 2002.

For further information, interested parties may inquire at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays, except holidays. Qualification Statement Forms (QSF) shall be issued starting May 5, 2003. Duly accomplished Qualification Statement Forms together with brochures, description of similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, and availability of appropriate skills among staff must be submitted before May 20, 2003.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Apr. 25 & May 2, 2003)



PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5285

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY of **3,520 feet 18-5/8" Grade K-55 Casings under FGK-30809** Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
- JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
 - will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
 - will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
- PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o Mr. Raffy S. Teylan, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNOC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (832) 893-1320 Loc. 5285, Fax No. (832) 840-1834.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting April 25, 2003, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (Php100.00) Philippine Currency for each set of tender documents.
- For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on May 07, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
- The estimated date of award is on June 30, 2003.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 P.M. of June 10, 2003. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.
- PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI - May 2, 2003)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee



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ADDENDUM ON THE INVITATION TO BID RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLY OF MIN. 137,500 MT, 10% MOLSO LONG GRAIN WHITE RICE

The National Food Authority wishes to inform all interested foreign rice suppliers and rice suppliers with foreign principals of the following addendum to the announcement published last 27 April 2003 for the supply of minimum 137,500 MT, 10% MOLSO long grain white rice:

- 5% broken (Well-Milled) included under specifications of stocks to be offered.
- Myanmar and Pakistan included as source of stocks to be offered.

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI-May 2, 2003)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

Our heartfelt gratitude to those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, mass cards and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the Mass and cremation services, and in so many ways extended their support and services and comforted us during our moments of bereavement over our beloved

SIMON C. SANCHEZ

who passed away on April 9, 2003.

From his wife Jeanne; his father Peping; and Tita Edith;
 his brothers, his sister, in-laws and other relatives.

"In peace
 I shall both lie
 down and sleep,
 for you alone,
 Lord make me
 secure..."
 Psalm 4:9

We, the family and relatives of the late

REGINO CHENG COKIENG

Who joined his Creator on April 12, 2003

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.



DEATH NOTICES

OSCAR E. LEDESA

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

Body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels,
 Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 4, 2003

HABITO, GENEDINA G.

Joined her Creator on April 27, 2003

Her remains lie at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C.
 Raymundo cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.
 Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ROSAURO C. CRUZ

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave.,
 Q.C. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

DR. PORFERIO L. GRANDE

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

His body lies in state at Dulce Memorial Chapels, Jose
 Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila.
 Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ATTY. JOSE VILLAREAL NAVARRA

Joined his Creator on April 28, 2003

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels,
 Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ATTY. BENJAMIN R. ESTRELLADO

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

Body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta
 Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 4, 2003.

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Thanks for all
 you do.

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Mommy Lita,

Thank you for always
 helping us to remember
 what is important in life...
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Happy Mother's Day!



Irah, Basti &
 Pauline

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Mommy Tess,

If there was a day for
 everything you have given
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 I love you very much!

Chris

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Mama Rita,

Thank you for always
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Kobe & Nikl

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

Our heartfelt gratitude to those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, mass cards and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the Mass and cremation services, and in so many ways extended their support and services and comforted us during our moments of bereavement over our beloved

SIMON C. SANCHEZ

who passed away on April 9, 2003.

From his wife Jeanne; his father Peping; and Tita Edith; his brothers, his sister; in-laws and other relatives.

"In peace
 I shall both lie
 down and sleep,
 for you alone,
 Lord make me
 secure..."
 Psalm 4:9

We, the family and relatives of the late

REGINO CHENG COKIENG

Who joined his Creator on April 12, 2003

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and consoled with us in our moment of grief.



DEATH NOTICES

OSCAR E. LEDESMA

Joined his Creator on April 27, 2003

Body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 4, 2003

HABITO, GENEDINA G.

Joined her Creator on April 27, 2003

Her remains lie at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ROSAURO C. CRUZ

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

DR. PORFERIO L. GRANDE

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

His body lies in state at Dulce Memorial Chapels, Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manugul, Manila. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ATTY. JOSE VILLAREAL NAVARRA

Joined his Creator on April 28, 2003

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 3, 2003.

ATTY. BENJAMIN R. ESTRELLADO

Joined his Creator on April 29, 2003

Body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on May 4, 2003.

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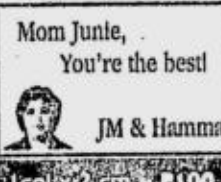


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Nanay Karen,

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Mico, Nicole, Gabby AJ & Christian

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Mommy Mia,

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Mama Rita,

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Kobe & Nikl

2 col x 3 cm - P 500



Mommy Tessa,

If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday. I love you very much!

Chris

2 col x 5 cm - P1,000

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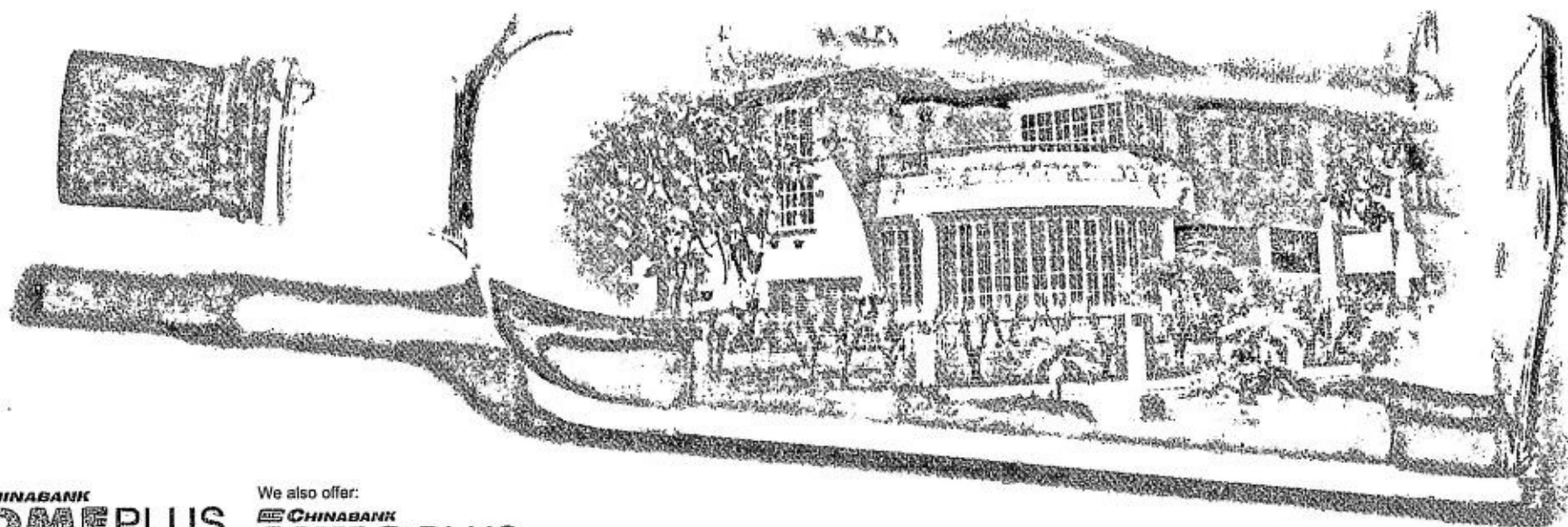
BUSINESS

Exports from ecozones rose 9.3% to \$5.6B in first three months of 2003

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Your success is our business

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EXPORTS from the country's economic zones were resilient through the first quarter this year despite uncertainty over the US-led attack on Iraq in March.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported yesterday that exports rose 9.3 percent to \$5.6 billion from January to March this year from \$5.13 billion during the same period last year.

The ecozone exports, made up mostly of semiconductors and electronic products, are growing faster than the revised export growth target of 5 percent for the country's total exports.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the country's exports of semiconductors and electronic products were likely to remain robust considering that most of the products assembled were meant for cutting edge gadgets, specifically mobile phones.

Roxas said that Texas Instruments, an American chip maker with a major factory at the state-owned ecozone in Baguio, has invested more in its plant to expand the production of its chips.

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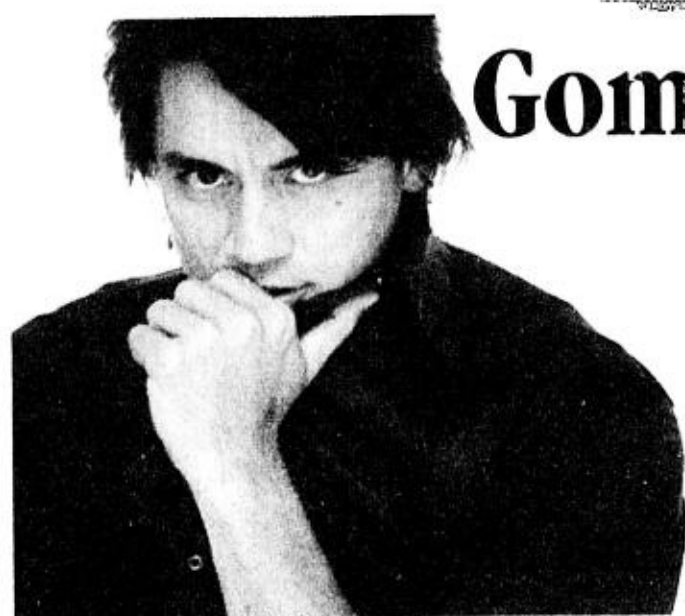
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



RICHARD GOMEZ

Goma running if.../C2

The face
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HANDYPHONE

Goma to run for senator with Lacson if. . .

By Leah Salterio

RICHARD Gomez is willing to join the senatorial slate of the "united opposition" with Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, as long as the party will finance his senatorial campaign because he is not ready to spend his own hard-earned money.

Richard is said to be one of the candidates being groomed to run under Lacson's political party.

"If somebody will finance my candidacy, then I will run," Richard, also known as Goma, told INQUIRER Entertainment recently. "Running is not a problem; campaigning is, because it's too expensive."

"I don't want to spend my hard-earned show biz money on my political venture," he added. "I don't know how I will recoup it."

The actor who turned 37 last month said, "I get invitations left and right to run."

His manager and friend Douglas Quijano confirmed this. "He has been rumored to run for mayor of Caloocan City, governor of Bulacan and for senator, *lahat na lang*."

But Goma, despite reports to the contrary, was not present when Lacson last Tuesday launched his candidacy at Club Filipino in Greenhills as the standard bearer of the "united opposition" for the 2004 elections. The affair attracted almost 200 politicians and Lacson supporters.

Mad about MAD

Tuesday, it was said that the actor who could be a politician was in the Lacson affair. But Goma called this writer and said he was not capable of bilocation, or being in two places at the same time. He said he was taping for his GMA 7 soap series, "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw Pa Rin," last Tuesday.

Of his political ambitions, Goma pointed out, "We already won the last time, only we were not proclaimed."

He was referring to the 2001 elections when he ran as a nominee of the party-list, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD). The Commission on Elections (Comelec), however disqualified MAD, saying the party failed to meet the qualifications set by the Supreme Court for the party-list system.

Even now, Goma admits he still feels bad about the MAD disqualification despite having received 1.4 million votes or 9.9 percent of the total party-list votes. Under the party-list system, a winning party was entitled to a maximum of three seats in the House.

"The Comelec accredited us based on the requirements we submitted

'The government doesn't have a strong anti-drug campaign,' he noted. 'Given a chance to become a legislator, I would want to do my share.'

and it allowed us to run (in the party-list election)," Goma said. "But I was really disappointed when we were disqualified. That was bad. *Nakakapanghinayang*."

Disorganized system

The Comelec said MAD did not represent a marginalized sector but was an entity funded or assisted by the government, a ground for disqualification based on the Supreme Court guidelines.

"Our electoral and judicial systems are really disorganized," Goma lamented. "There will always be cheating and fraud in elections. Unless we all shape up, nothing will happen to us."

He said that if he would be elected to the Senate, he would pursue his causes and concerns which are youth, sports and the fight against drugs.

"The government doesn't have a strong anti-drug campaign," he noted. "Given a chance to become a legislator, I would want to do my share."

As MAD spokesperson, he worked without pay. He appeared in a TV commercial campaigning against drug abuse and went on a campus tour.

During the administration of former President Joseph Estrada, Goma was appointed national adviser on youth and sports after he served as presidential consultant on sports development.

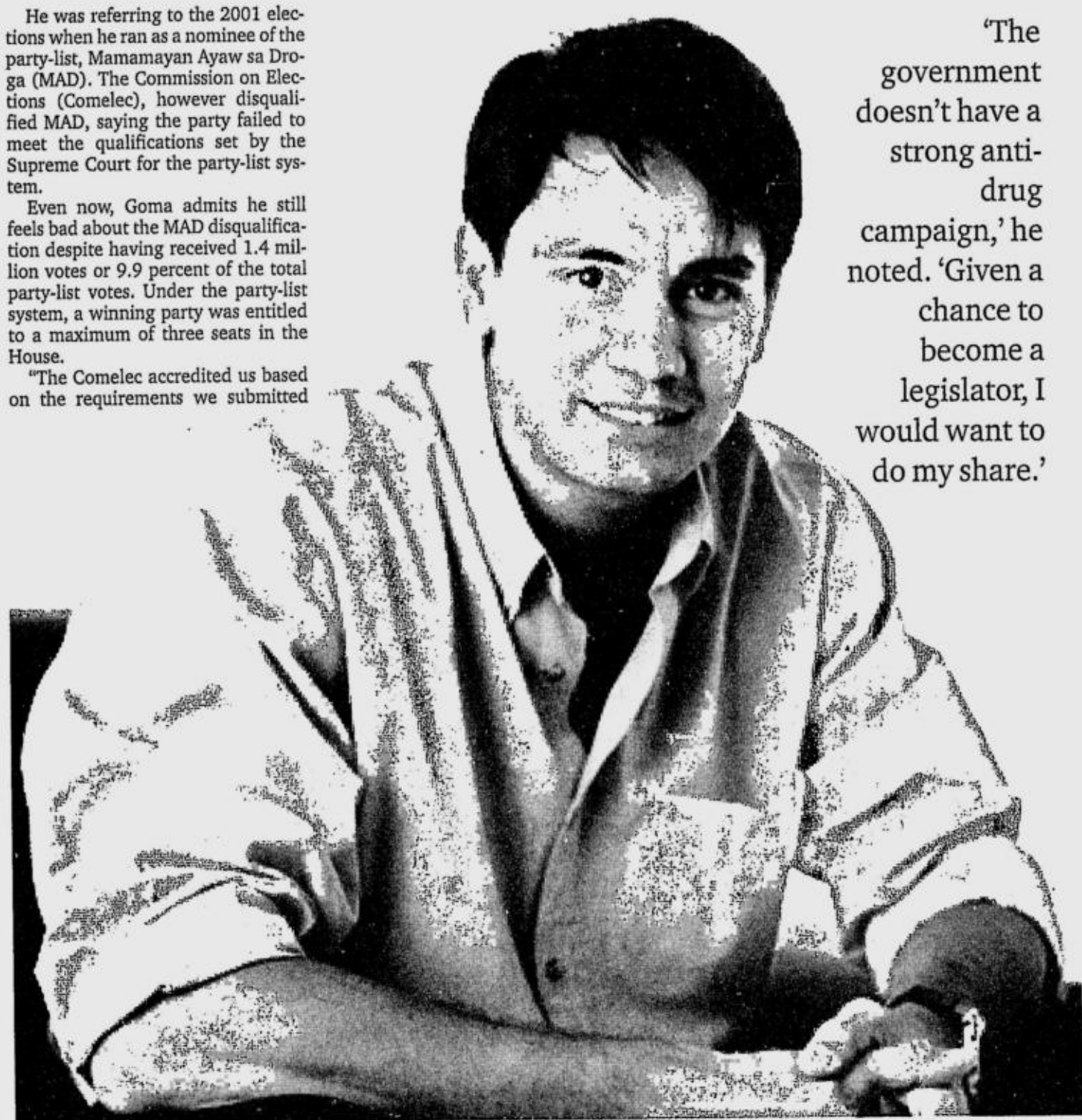
Demanding soap

Richard is behind the annual celebrity golf tournament popularly known as the Goma Cup, which gathers show biz stars to play in the fairways. He has brought the Goma Cup to Baguio, Boracay, Cebu, Puerto Azul in Cavite and even Guam.

Even as he gets ready for another election campaign, Richard remains a very busy actor. He tapes for GMA 7's soap series on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

"It's very tiring and demanding to

GOMA/C6



RUNNING MAN soon, Richard Gomez laments the cheating and fraud in elections.

ZORAYDA SANCHEZ

The face that launched a thousand jokes

By Leah Salterio

SHE WAS the favorite object of ridicule in many TV shows and movies. Other comedians and stars laughed at her, insulted her, hit her with rolled-up newspapers and other props. In short, they always made fun of her and the face that launched a hundred jokes.

Audiences laughed. And Zorayda Sanchez became a star, if not a pretty star.

When the TV shows and movies stopped coming, Zorayda was forced to take an office job to survive.

Today, she commutes daily from her home in remote Angono, Rizal to a newspaper office in Intramuros, Manila where she holds a job as a supplement section writer. She takes an FX taxi or a jeep to the MRT station at Edsa-Crossing, takes the MRT to Taft Avenue, where she then takes the LRT up to the Central Station behind the Manila City Hall on Arroceros.

"From there, I just walk to my office," Zorayda says.

Do people still recognize the former funny woman?

"*Marami pa rin ang nakakakilala*," Zorayda shares. "Every time they notice me, I simply smile at them."

Missing show biz

The ex-comedian has a journalism degree from the University of Sto. Tomas, which she puts to good use in her present job. Still, Zorayda admits she still pines for show biz. She misses the cameras, the lights and even the late-night hours on the film set. Given another chance to act again, she will gladly take it, she says.

Zorayda the comedian peaked in the late '80s, both on TV and the movies. She was in the mold of comedians who used their looks or physical imperfections to get the laughs.

In about 50 movies, Zorayda was mocked, laughed and shouted at, kicked, slapped and mugged. She rolled in the mud, and her face was covered with flour or cake icing.

"My role as a fairy in 'Petrang Kabayo' was hard because they made me climb rooftops and trees while I was pregnant," re-

calls Zorayda.

"It was physically demanding, but I couldn't say no to our director (the late Channing Carlos) because I didn't want to tell him about my condition."

The baby she was carrying is now 15 years old, Alexis Joyce, fathered by former character actor Dax Rivera.

Dream come true

Zorayda loves to point out that she worked with big stars such as Sharon Cuneta, Robin Padilla, Tito, Vic and Joey, Vilma Santos, Christopher de Leon, Aga Muhlach, Maricel Soriano, and her idol, Hilda Koronel.

"It was a dream come true working with Hilda in 'Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan,' directed by Laurice Guillen," Zorayda says.

She has no regrets after almost 20 years in the business, even if she was not able to build a house or buy a car.

"Show biz is not a bad job," Zorayda maintains. "I experienced popularity for a time. Not everyone gets the chance to have that."

"I knew even before that show biz is not really a stable job. But when people ask me now why I no longer make movies or appear on TV, I feel slighted because it's as if it's my fault that I don't have offers anymore."

YESTERDAY



A HOUSE of her own is Zorayda's biggest wish. For now, she and her daughter live in a house her sister built.



NOT BAD-LOOKING at all indeed is serious mom Zorayda Sanchez, whose daughter Joy is the best thing that show biz gave her.

JIM GUIAO/PUNZALAN

Rivera, her director in the play, "Kahapon, Kasalukuyan, Kinabukasan," helped her break into movies. In 1983, she played a teacher from the province in Elwood Perez's "Shame," with the late Klaudia Zobel in the lead. Rivera was Perez's assistant director.

That was followed by another role as a college professor in the late Ishmael Bernal's "Broken Marriage," starring Christopher de Leon and Vilma Santos.

In Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Bagets," she played a teacher again.

In 1987 alone, she made a dozen movies. She also had a regular TV show, "Goin' Bananas," with Boyet de Leon, Johnny Delgado, Edgar Mortiz, Al Tantay and the late Jay Ilagan.

More TV shows followed, like "Daddy Kong 1, 2, 3" and "Super Pinoy."

Zorayda was also a product endorser, making a sales pitch for the Superwheel Green laundry bar. When J. Walter Thompson recently celebrated its anniversary, she was invited and cited by the chief executive officer (CEO).

"He said in his speech that Superwheel Green without Zorayda will be nowhere," Zorayda says. "It was very flattering."

Biggest dream

When the movies and TV shows stopped coming for her, Zorayda looked for another job. She responded to a classified ads search for a newspaper writer and got the job four years ago.

"Before, I was the one being interviewed," she says. "Now, I do the interviewing."

Her last movie was "No Read, No Write," shown three years ago.

Zorayda insists the best thing that happened to her in show biz is her daughter, who will be a high school senior at Sienna College in the coming school year.

"I don't have too many dreams, but the biggest one is for my daughter and I to have our own house one day," says Zorayda, the serious single mom. "Even if it's a nipa hut, as long as we could call it our own, it would be enough."

Show biz has changed her personality, she says. "I used to have a very big inferiority complex. I was a loner. But when I joined show biz, I became sociable and learned how to interact with people. I also understood the people around me better."

Most tragic thing

She admits some people can be cruel in making fun of her physical appearance.

"I'm not really that bad looking," she declares. "But some people exaggerate and say I have a face only a mother can love. They know I don't really look good, they don't have to rub it in."

With the help of show biz, Zorayda was able to buy a 271 square-meter lot in Angono, where she plans to build a house. Right now, she stays in the family house built by her sis-

ter who is in the United States. She shares the house with her daughter, a younger sister and a nephew.

Three years ago, fire gutted their house, which Zorayda considers the most tragic thing that happened in her life.

"I felt half my life was burned. All my posters, stills from my movies, fan mail, stories written about me and the articles I also wrote disappeared. More than the clothes and the other material things that we lost, the more painful loss was the disappearance of all proof that I was once a star."

Teacher, endorser

The third of eight children, Zorayda wrote radio scripts for dzRH after college, then acted in plays for Dulaang Bayan and Sining Edukasyon. Frank



REIGNING Miss Chinatown Grace Lee (middle) flanked by first runner-up Luv Suntay (right) and second runner-up Tanya Yuquimpo.

The beauty queen that very few people know

By Marinel R. Cruz

GRACE LEE came home to a very quiet welcome: no camera bulbs flashing, no admirers reaching out to touch her.

Very few people, in fact, knew that last January, the 20-year-old Grace brought home a major award from an important international pageant in Hong Kong.

Grace was crowned Miss Vitality at the Miss Chinese International 2003 beauty pageant in Hong Kong. She says winning the title is equivalent to bringing home the third runner-up crown in the Miss Universe.

Beauties from Chinatowns in cities around the world gather in Hong Kong annually to vie for the crown.

"It's a big pageant, especially in many Southeast Asian countries," Grace tells Inquirer Entertainment. The beauty pageant is such an important event in Hong Kong that only the first runner-up is sent to the more well-known Miss Universe pageant. The Miss Hong Kong titleholder represents the former British territory in the Miss Chinese International search.

Grace was the winner of the Miss Chinatown Manila 2002 beauty search held at the Manila Hotel last year. Luv Suntay, 24, was first runner-up while Tanya Yuquimpo was second runner-up.

The winner of the Miss Chinatown Manila search is the official

Philippine representative to the Miss Chinese International pageant. On May 16, starting at 7 p.m., a new Miss Chinatown Manila will be crowned at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

Grace, a political science student at Ateneo University, was born to Korean parents who moved to the Philippines when Grace was 11. Her grandmother is one-fourth Chinese, she says.

"I still have one year as Miss Vitality," she says. "I would like to use that time to promote the Miss Chinatown pageant and its causes here in the Philippines. I feel I have to work on informing Filipinos about the contest because here, it's not as big as the Binibining Pilipinas."

As Chinatown's ambassadors of goodwill, Grace, Luv and Tanya are busy helping the local government of Manila in reviving Chinatown's old glory.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the Chinatown Development Authority (CDA) initiated the search for Miss Chinatown Manila five years ago.

"Chinatown is a historical place," says Grace. "There is a need to heighten the awareness of people to preserve Chinatown. People tamper with things that they cannot replace. Historical buildings, bridges or statues are not well taken care of."

The Miss Chinatown winners are also involved in cultural activities promoting Chinese traditions like the

Mid-autumn and Mooncake festivals, and the Chinese New Year celebration.

"Many Chinese consider the Philippines their second home now," says Luv. "The Chinese are not so different from Filipinos. They give so much respect to their elders and they value self-discipline."

Luv is half-Filipino, half-Chinese and speaks fluent Mandarin. She is taking up medicine at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay (UERM) in Sta. Mesa, Manila, and plans to major in plastic surgery. She is planning to join Manila barangay health workers in bringing medical missions to poor communities.

The girls are also involved in charity work, like raising funds for House of the Angels, a private organization that provides shelter to abandoned and unwanted children.

"The group has saved more than a hundred babies and put up about 80 for adoption abroad and in the Philippines," Grace says.

Says Mayor Atienza: "We continue to organize such events to highlight the distinct Chinese influence on Filipino culture, character and traditions. This pageant also showcases the beauty and grace of Chinese Filipinos."

Miss Chinatown application forms must be submitted to the NGO program secretariat of the Manila City Hall on or before May 3. Screening of contestants will be on May 6.

A balmy, breezy Broadway night in grand Greenbelt 2



UVA co-owner Franco Laurel also sings to diners

By Margaux Ortiz

ONCE UPON a balmy summer night, a princess gathered the most distinguished theater performers in the land for a night of good food and Broadway music. They sang, danced and had the time of their lives all night long.

Well... not really. Because Uva Restaurant, where this took place, is situated below a block of residential units at Greenbelt 2 on prime Ayala property, the performers were given only until 10 p.m. to show their "goods" -- world-class, theater-trained voices singing popular Broadway

songs.

Still, Theater Night at Uva was far from being a disappointment, especially the part about the superb food and entertainment.

SHOW TIME

Erstwhile princess Ayen Munji-Laurel, now wife of Franco Laurel who is a co-owner of Uva, gathered such esteemed theater artists like

JM Rodriguez, Gigi Posadas, Ricci Chan, Nonie Buencamino, Sheila Francisco, Mayen Bustamante, Noel Rayos, Lynn Sherman, and Lana Jalosjos to serenade Uva diners on the evening of April 12. A makeshift stage was set in front of Uva, before

TITLE: C7

DID YOU KNOW...

Seen pumping some iron at the Fitness First Gym at Robinson's Summit Building on Ayala Avenue in Makati City were singer and "SOP" host Jaya Ramsey and stage and movie actor Jay Espino. The two artists were perhaps trying to shed the pounds they gained during the long Lenten vacation.



Axe Brazil!
The Brazilian Festival at Greenbelt 3 Level 3, April 27 to May 3.

• Featuring the music of Brazilian band, Guarana.
• Smooth Brazilian dance and Martial Arts moves by the Grupo Capotera Manila.

Other activities:

- Free Jam for local percussionists.
- Workshop on Capotera Art supported by the Brazilian Embassy.
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Star City tickets are available at major National Book Store branches, Robinson's Department Store (Makati and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Vero Mall, Green Hills), Ayala Center Inc., Greenbelt Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld web site found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiries and reservations.

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...with the Metro...
...this month!
THE SERIES
...
Steve Martin Queen Latifah
Bringing down the House
Steve Martin learns a thing or two about life from jailbreaker Queen Latifah in this rip-roaring, odd couple comedy!
MAY 5, 2003 - 7:30PM
GREENBELT 3 CINEMA 2

Hudson
Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson have some serious trust issues to settle before their love affair goes kaput!
MAY 19, 2003 - 7:30PM
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

Oscar nominee Salma Hayek shines in the critically acclaimed film that chronicles the life and loves artist Frida Kahlo.
MAY 26, 2003 - 7:30PM

JOEY'S 80's SUMMER NIGHT RAGE @ BLUE ONION
MAY 15, 2003
Get on your feet and show off your best moves as 80's Band Rage rocks the night scene on a Thursday night!

JOEY Salutes MOM
Mom gets a grand treat on her special day with live music, on-site activities & more!
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May 11, 2003 - Sunday

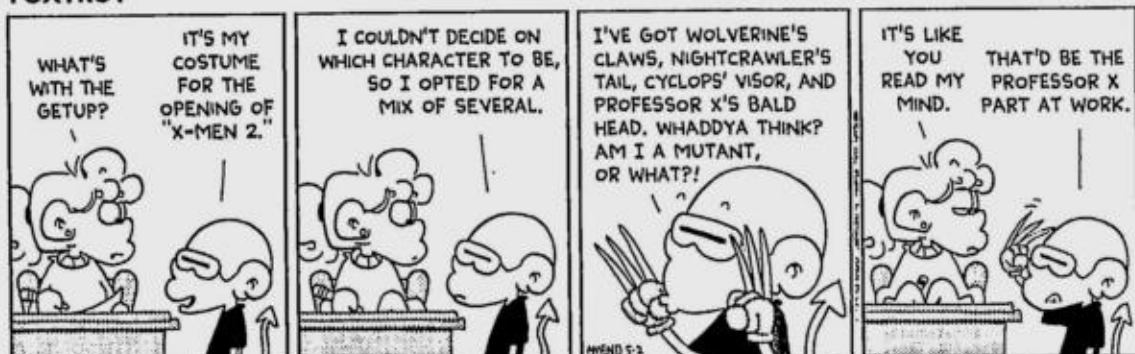
JOEY 2003 Rhythms
who you radio should be

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

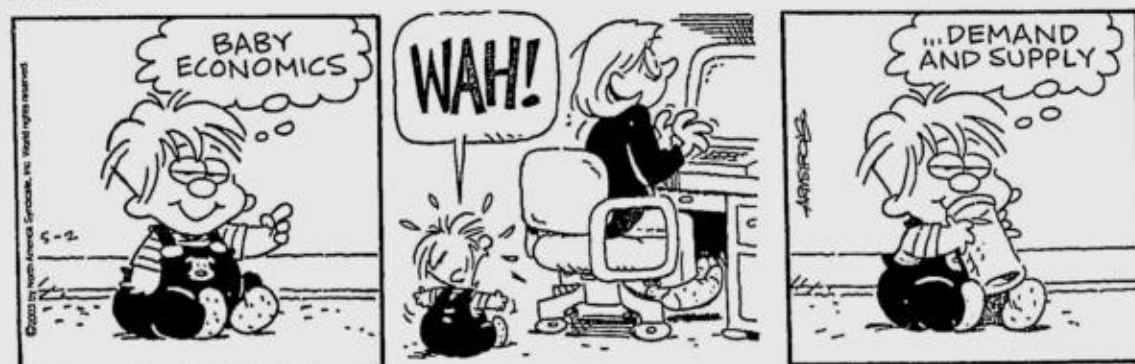


MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a quick, bright, clever mind. People are entertained by your charm. In fact, your observations about humankind are quite wise. You enjoy good friendships because of your own generosity and good humor. You are a natural teacher. This year favors social activities, marriage and partnerships.

Birthday of: William Inge, writer; Mary Hopkin, singer; James Brown, soul artist.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Yesterday's wishful thinking has now turned into confusion. Avoid any important agreements or promises with friends today. You do not have the complete picture.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might want to avoid an unpleasant situation or confrontation with someone. You don't feel up to it. That's quite all right; you're entitled to your feelings.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): There is a good chance you are trying to reach impossible goals now. Wait a day or two to see if you are ready to modify or change your position somewhat.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your energy level might be decidedly lower than usual today. That is because fuzzy Neptune is making a harsh aspect to your energetic Sun. Therefore, pamper yourself and rest a bit today.



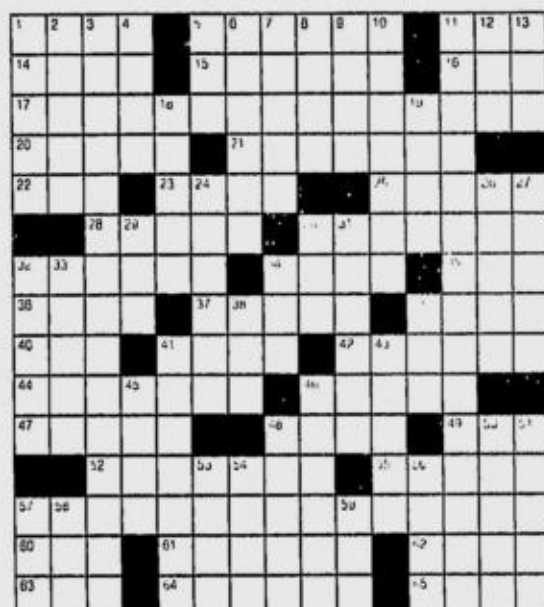
CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Disagreements about sharing something make you want to avoid a friend or possibly be suspicious of his or her motives. The truth is that things are just confused today for everyone. Relax.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might feel that you can barely handle the normal demands of everyday life today. If so, then take it easy. Many people feel a bit tired today. Don't push the river.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sunup
5 Puff of air
11 To and —
14 Sonic boomerang
15 Actress Bacall
16 First gear
17 Three stones
20 Prudential competitor
21 Soliloquy
22 HST predecessor
23 Mineral springs
25 Andes residents
28 Attempt a pickup
30 "Iris" painter
32 Clapton's instrument
34 Simple
35 Short life story
36 Bronte or Perry
37 Competitive personality
39 Competent
40 Winter coat?
41 Catch some rays?
42 Having a pitched roof
44 Sensed by touch
46 Fellini's "La ___ Vita"
47 Go bad
48 Late night Jay
49 Barbara ___ Geddes
52 Take back
55 Gullible
57 Three stones
60 Make do
61 Anxiety
62 Kelt of the comics
63 Simple card game
64 Failed to hit
65 Holier-___thou



By Verna Sult
Silver Spring, MD

5/2/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved
TOIL ASHE COSTA
ASTO SUES UNPIN
JUST AS IMPORTANT
BET RYA WEE
AS WITH ANTON STANIS
LURES RASTER
IRISES TSE KNEE
AGE SUP ORR ENG
SERF BAR SENIOR
BUCKET ANGLE
FOR IN LIFE IS WHAT
ORE WAS ETO
ONE WONT STAND FOR
LOVER ABEL OREO
STEIN NARY GYRO

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39 Initial letters
41 Lever support
43 Beside
45 Knotted
46 Termination of existence
48 Kedrova and McCann
50 Lupone role
51 Geneva slake
53 Anderson of "WKRP..."
54 Pint drinks
56 Aid in wrong-doing
57 Slitch together
58 Alias acronym
59 Actor Beatty

DOWN
1 Low-boost coffee?
2 Suffered soreness
3 Three stones
4 Nordic goddess
5 Journalist
6 Scrap collector
7 Pound replacements
8 "___ Brockovich"
9 Greek philosopher
10 Gridiron extremity
11 Three stones
12 French king
13 Hooter
14 Dreadlocks wearer
19 Kong precursor
24 "The Merchant of Venice" lady
26 Nimble
27 Furnished with footwear
29 Social follower?
30 Victory sign
31 Catherine of ___
32 Ways of walking
33 Flip a lid off
34 Speed stat
38 Fashion monogram



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



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2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2
3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2
5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2
6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2
7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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1 XEREX	1 X-MEN 2	1 X-MEN 2
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2
3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2
5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2	5 X-MEN 2
6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2
7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2	7 X-MEN 2
8 X-MEN 2	8 X-MEN 2	8 X-MEN 2
9 X-MEN 2	9 X-MEN 2	9 X-MEN 2
10 X-MEN 2	10 X-MEN 2	10 X-MEN 2

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SM CITY BACOR	SM SOUTHMALL
1 JOHNNY ENGLISH	1 A MAN APART
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 X-MEN 2	3 X-MEN 2
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU	4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 X-MEN 2	5 ANGER MANAGEMENT
6 TILL THERE WAS YOU	6 X-MEN 2
7 XEREX	7 XEREX
8 EQUILIBRIUM	8 X-MEN 2
9 JOHNNY ENGLISH	9 JOHNNY ENGLISH
10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CENTERPOINT	SM CITY CEBU
1 TILL THERE WAS YOU	1 X-MEN 2
2 ANGER MANAGEMENT	2 JOHNNY ENGLISH
3 X-MEN 2	3 KANGAROO JACK
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS	4 EQUILIBRIUM
5 X-MEN 2	5 XEREX
6 A MAN APART	6 TILL THERE WAS YOU
7 JOHNNY ENGLISH	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU
8 EQUILIBRIUM	8 X-MEN 2
9 XEREX	
10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	

SM CITY FAIRVIEW	SM CITY ILOILO
1 JOHNNY ENGLISH	1 JUST MARRIED
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 CLOSED
3 EQUILIBRIUM	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2
5 TILL THERE WAS YOU	5 X-MEN 2
6 XEREX	6 JOHNNY ENGLISH
7 X-MEN 2	7 CLOSED
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 XEREX
9 A MAN APART	
10 BOLDSTAR	
11 WHAT A GIRL WANTS	
12 ANGER MANAGEMENT	

SM CITY MANILA	SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
1 X-MEN 2	1 XEREX
2 JOHNNY ENGLISH	2 X-MEN 2
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 X-MEN 2	4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 ANGER MANAGEMENT	
6 X-MEN 2	
7 EQUILIBRIUM	
8 A MAN APART	
9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	
10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	
11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	
12 XEREX	

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN	SM CITY DAYAO
1 X-MEN 2	1 X-MEN 2
2 XEREX	2 XEREX
3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU	4 TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM MEGAMALL	SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 EQUILIBRIUM	1 ANGER MANAGEMENT
2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2
3 X-MEN 2	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 X-MEN 2	4 XEREX
5 ANGER MANAGEMENT	5 X-MEN 2
6 JOHNNY ENGLISH	6 TILL THERE WAS YOU
7 A MAN APART	7 XEREX
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 X-MEN 2
10 X-MEN 2	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU
11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 XEREX
12 XEREX	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 XEREX
4 X-MEN 2

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ANGER MANAGEMENT
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
X2: X-MEN UNITED
11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END
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1 X-MEN 2	1 X-MEN 2	1 ANGER MANAGEMENT	1 X-MEN 2	1 TILL THERE WAS YOU	1 X-MEN 2	1 TILL THERE WAS YOU	1 XEREX	1 X-MEN 2	1 X-MEN 2
2 X-MEN 2	2 JOHNNY ENGLISH	2 X-MEN 2	2 A MAN APART	2 X-MEN 2	2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 XEREX	2 X-MEN 2	2 JOHNNY ENGLISH	2 JOHNNY ENGLISH
3 JOHNNY ENGLISH	3 XEREX	3 JOHNNY ENGLISH	3 XEREX	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU	3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 XEREX	4 ANGER MANAGEMENT	4 TILL THERE WAS YOU	4 X-MEN 2	4 JOHNNY ENGLISH	4 A MAN APART	4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2	4 TILL THERE WAS YOU	4 XEREX
5 TILL THERE WAS YOU	5 X-MEN 2	5 XEREX	5 ANGER MANAGEMENT	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU	5 X-MEN 2	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU	5 X-MEN 2	5 JUST MARRIED	5 SHADOW OF VAMPIRE
6 EQUILIBRIUM	6 TILL THERE WAS YOU	6 XEREX	6 TILL THERE WAS YOU	6 XEREX	6 X-MEN 2	6 TILL THERE WAS YOU	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2	6 X-MEN 2
7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 X-MEN 2	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU
8 EQUILIBRIUM	8 X-MEN 2	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU	8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 X-MEN 2	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU	9 TILL THERE WAS YOU
10 A MAN APART	10 X-MEN 2	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU	10 TILL THERE WAS YOU
11 WHAT A GIRL WANTS	11 X-MEN 2	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU	11 TILL THERE WAS YOU
12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 X-MEN 2	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU	12 TILL THERE WAS YOU

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Goma to run for senator . . .

From page C2

"do the soap because you have to give full attention to the continuity," he said.

He has finished filming the Viva Films movie, "Walang Kapalit," which reunites him with former girlfriend Sharon Cuneta. It is directed by Joel Lamangan. Sharon and Richard were last together in Olive Lamasan's "Minas Minahal Kita" in 2000.

Sundays, Richard hosts the talk show, "S-Files," with Joey Marquez, Paolo Bediones and Janice de Belen. He also sometimes helps out in hosting GMA 7's Sunday noontime program, "S.O.P."

- **Long kissing scene**

In his new movie with Sharon,

they will have a shower scene, Richard said.

"Sharon was somewhat uncomfortable and a little tense when we were shooting," he recalled. "We also have a love scene and a very long kissing scene in a cemetery, when her father (Dante Rivero) is buried. We have more kissing scenes in this movie than in the previous ones we did."

He said that save for the discomfort of the shower scene, he and Sharon have maintained a good working relationship.

"We are very comfortable when it comes to acting together," he said. "It's not just working. We're both having

fun on the set."

Richard, his wife Lucy Torres and their two-year-old daughter Juliana were supposed to spend Holy Week in Bangkok, but they decided against going because of the dreaded SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

They stayed in Manila and did the traditional *Visita Iglesia*.

**DID
YOU
KNOW...**

"Tabing Ilog" mainstay Patrick Garcia and a pretty girl were seen walking along the sidewalk near Greenbelt 3 in Makati City one recent night. The young couple looked cozy with each

other, oblivious of the Saturday night hustle and bustle around them.

Patrick was earlier rumored to have a girlfriend several years his senior.

MTRCB R-13

Strictly for 13 years of age and up



Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson offer non-stop laughs in fun, new comedy

In the No. 1 comedy in America, Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson star together for the first time as patient and therapist -- though at times it's hard to tell which one is which!

After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by outrageous psychiatrist Dr. Buddy Rydell (Nicholson).

Tortured by Buddy's wacky and abrasive confrontational methods, Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself, and keep his girl (Marisa Tomei) along the way.

With surprise appearances by top celebrities.

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN	
ROBEN		BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1		SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAHAN MO LANGIT KO	
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE	
QUEZON CITY		
ACT-1		SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT	
ACT-3		ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY	
CORONET A		PUNIL
CORONET B		A MAN APART
QUEZON-1		PUNIL
REMAR		X-MEN 2
REMAR-2		BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL / NOVALICHES CINEMA		
A		PUNIL
B		BOLD STAR
C		
MANDALUYONG CITY		
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70	
CINEMA-1	WHAT A GIRL WANTS	
CINEMA-2	THE JUNGLE BOOK	
CAINTA RIZAL		
STA. LUCIA EAST		(881-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TILL THERE WAS YOU	
CINEMA-2		BOLD STAR
CINEMA-3		A MAN APART
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)		X-MEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)		X-MEN
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU	
CINEMA-7	ANGER MANAGEMENT	
CINEMA-8		PUNIL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)		X-MEN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)		X-MEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)		JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-12	TILL THERE WAS YOU	
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU	
CINEMA-15		X-MEN
LORES		
CINEMA-2		SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT	
NEW CINEMAQUE - CABANATUAN		
CINEMA 1		DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2		BAHIL
CINEMA 3		HARRY POTTE
CINEMA 4		CHANGING MINDS
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X-MEN 2

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May 11	4pm, 6:30pm

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May 23	4pm, 6:30pm
May 24	11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7pm
May 25	11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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'Plugging' mentality takes over TV screen

IT'S so enervating to watch local TV shows these days. For one thing, the "plugging" mentality has taken over so many programs, so instead of getting solid entertainment, we often get plugs for new movies and TV shows, masquerading as entertainment.

These days, for instance, we get plugs galore for new productions like "Walang Kapalit" with Sharon Cuneta and Richard Gomez, "Till There Was You" with Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual, and "Xerex" with Aubrey Miles and her three studs.

These stars guest all over the TV spectrum, in a dizzying variety of ways—talking on talk shows, trying to sing in musical programs, acting as guest stars in dramas and sitcoms, playing games or talking about the traumas in their lives on magazine programs, and doing just about anything and everything else on show biz talk shows.

They think that the variety of their guesting plays makes their plugs tolerable, but they're dead wrong. We're frankly fed up with seeing their faces all over the tube, robbing us of real entertainment, just so they can plug their

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

new movies.

They profess to care for and even love the members of the audience, but we don't believe them because they're really just taking our patience for granted with their redundant and boring overexposure, just to make sure their films make money. They love themselves, not their audience.

The wonder is that our TV channels allow this excessive plugging to take place. For what considerations, we wonder? The channels talk about family, about heart, but they obviously don't mean it, either.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that even TV shows are now being plugged a lot on the tube. In particular, the "fight to the finish" between "Maala-ala Mo Kaya?" and "Magpakailanman" has prompted their respective channels to over-plug each week's episodes—to televisioners' compounded aggravation.

When will we be able to watch a show that isn't plugging some-

thing? As viewers, we deserve to enjoy shows that think of us, not of all the movies and TV programs they have to plug. It's time for local viewers to be not so happily, sappy clueless about how they're being used and abused by some TV people—and protest.

Let's have fewer plugs, and more real entertainment on the tube—for a change!

'MTV Lokal' in Baguio City

ON MAY 3, Pinoy bands perform live in Baguio City in MTV-Philippines' popular show "MTV Lokal." The concert starts at 5 p.m. on May 3, and ends at 4 a.m. on May 4.

Performing are Cynthia Alexander, Sugarfree, 7ft. Jr., Imago, Kapatid, The Youth, Moonstar 88, Chico Sci, Sandwich, Pan, Cambio, 6 Cycle Mind, Brownbeat, All Star, K2417, Kamikaze, Brownman Revival and First Circle.

KC Montero hosts, along with MTV VJ Hunt finalist Chase Tinio, Alia Nahas, Niño Tupas, Patricia Benedicto, Johan Ekedum, Kym de Guzman and Geff Rodriguez.

'Aliwan Fiesta'

THE PHILIPPINES is a country

that dotes on festivals, so the Department of Tourism, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the cities of Manila and Pasay have come up with the bright idea of combining the most colorful of those festivals in "Aliwan Fiesta," a three-day cultural extravaganza currently ongoing (until tomorrow) at Star City.

The grand fiesta celebration brings together 3,000 of the best native talents from the country's 15 regions. Today, there will be tiarage, an opening bash at 5 p.m. at the Aliw Theater, and a concert at 8 p.m.

Tomorrow, May 3, there will be a grand parade at 2 p.m., awards ceremonies at 7:30 p.m., followed by a fireworks display, and a "Pasakalye" concert at 9 p.m.

Acoustic Performers

THIS month, Praia de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant at Eastwood City Walk features these acoustic performers: Mondays, Jimmy Bordoc; Tuesdays, Essence; Wednesdays, MYMP (Make Your Mama Proud), and Thursdays, Hourglass with Ria Villena, alternating with Dominic Burton.

Fridays are dedicated to R&B, and Saturdays to fiesta parties. Call 421-7764.



PROVEN HITMAKER. Kuh Ledesma returns to the Music Museum.

Kuh gives old hits new twist

FROM her early hit songs like "Dito Ba," "Sino ang Baliw" and "Bulaklak," to her biggest-selling album "Unforgettable" (which was certified quadruple platinum), pop diva Kuh Ledesma has shown that she is not just a fine artist, but a proven hitmaker as well.

On May 16 and 17, Kuh will put a new spin to her old hits in her show, "Kuh Hits Back" at the Music Museum.

The pop diva takes her hit songs—"I Think I'm in Love," "Sino ang Baliw," "Till I Met You," "Dito Ba"—and gives them a "makeover," turning old pop classics into updated hits, with a new

sound for today's audience.

For Kuh's older fans, it will be an evening to reminisce. For the younger ones, it will be an evening that will show them old songs still have a lot of life left to them.

"Kuh Hits Back" will mark the pop diva's return to the Music Museum, one of her favorite venues.

Kuh will be joined in the show by pop princess Kyla and actress-singer Ara Mina.

Showtime is 9 p.m. For inquiries and reservations, call Music Museum at 721-6726 or 721-0635 or Headline Concepts at 551-7251 to 55.

SHOW TIME

A balmy, breezy Broadway night ...

From page C3

guests who preferred to eat under the evening sky. The patrons of the many neighboring restaurants were lucky enough to enjoy Laurel and company's performance for free.

The program started at 8 p.m., on the dot. A little surprising, because shows like this one usually take forever to start. But then again, the people behind Theater Night must have wanted to make the most out of the borrowed time the performers had, which was a good thing for both the guests and the condominium residents (who, for all we know, might have also been enthusiastically applauding to the minispectacle below).

Fabulous

After a voice-over intro by Franco Laurel, the Broadway songs just kept pouring in. Ricci ("On Broadway"), JM ("They Can't Take That Away" (JM), Gigi ("Can't Help Loving That Man"), Mayen ("The Night Had to End"), Lyn ("Big Spender"), Lana ("Someone Like You"), Franco ("Unexpected Song"), Noel ("Extraordinary"), Ayen ("Don't Cry for Me Argentina"): All did fabulous jobs of transforming the sparse stage, devoid of the usual



NONIE Buencamino, Lana Jalosjos, Sheila Francisco, Gigi Posadas and Ricci Chan sing "He Lives in You" from "The Lion King."

elaborate props, into a showcase of the lovely songs.

Nonie Buencamino's interpretation of "He Lives in You" from "The Lion King," which he did with Ricci, Sheila, Noel, Lana, Gigi and JM, was especially notable. So was Sheila's rendition of "Happy Talk" and "Bali Hai" from "South Pacific." One could only surmise why such a gifted singer is more popular in other countries than in her own.

Breathtaking

Guests who chose to remain inside Uva were not deprived of the ongoing entertainment outside as they could watch and listen to the performers on a big television set in the second-floor dining room. The only catch: An old, monstrous electric fan sat beside the TV, distracting the otherwise engrossed viewers. There must have been a problem with the restaurant's ventilation, but they could have gotten a more pleasant-looking fan.

After a few more engaging renditions of popular Broadway songs ("Send in the Clowns," "Human Heart," "Forever Yours," "Extraor-

dinary," "Nothing," "Corner of the Sky," and "I'll Cover You") came the *piece de resistance*: a breathtaking finale by all the guest performers singing "Seasons of Love" from "Rent." As expected, their voices blended extremely well, with Lana's and Ricci's soaring above the others every once in a while.

The party ended at 10, on the dot. Sadly, for the Broadway aficionados, and happily, perhaps, for the sleepy condo residents who requested for the 10 p.m. cutoff.

But then again, for all we know, these residents might have been wishing the fabulous show would go on just a little bit more.



NOEL Rayos and Ayen Munji-Laurel's voices soar in their version of "Forever Yours."

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Ali 1	XEREX
Ali 2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
Ali 3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
Ali 4	X-MEN 2
Ali 5	X-MEN 2
Ali 6	PHONE BOOTH
Ali 7	EQUILIBRIUM

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	X-MEN 2
Farmers 2	XEREX

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MAY 4	PBA GAMES
MAY 9 & 10	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT

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X-MEN 2 P13 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55	ANGER MANAGEMENT R13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	X-MEN 2 P13 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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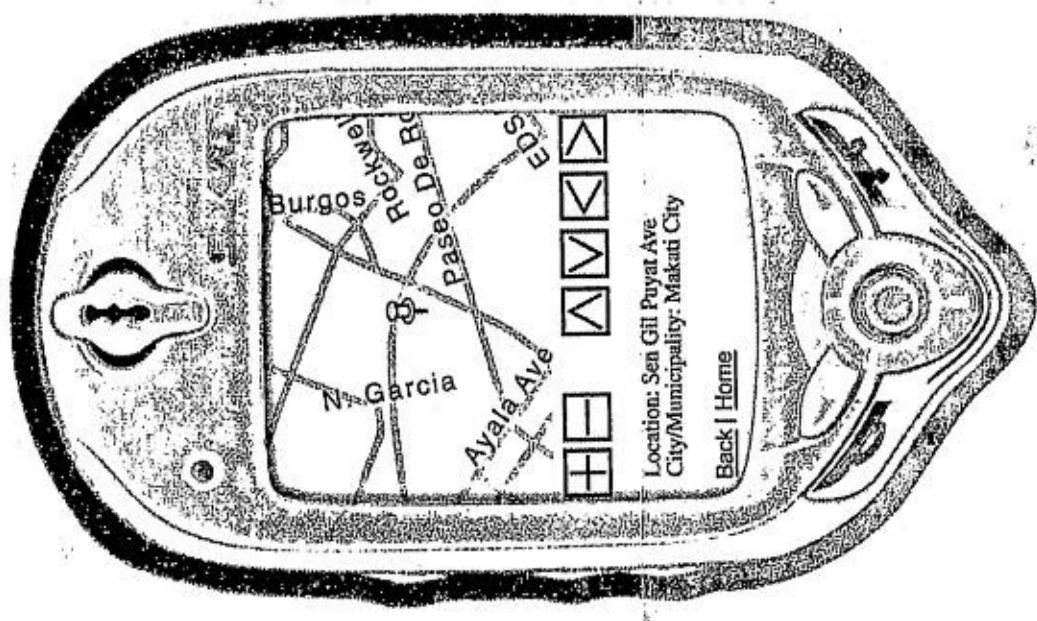
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Afternoons with Escada, et al

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In this issue



Wish is the summer place for Canovas

page E2

More power to the power people

page H1

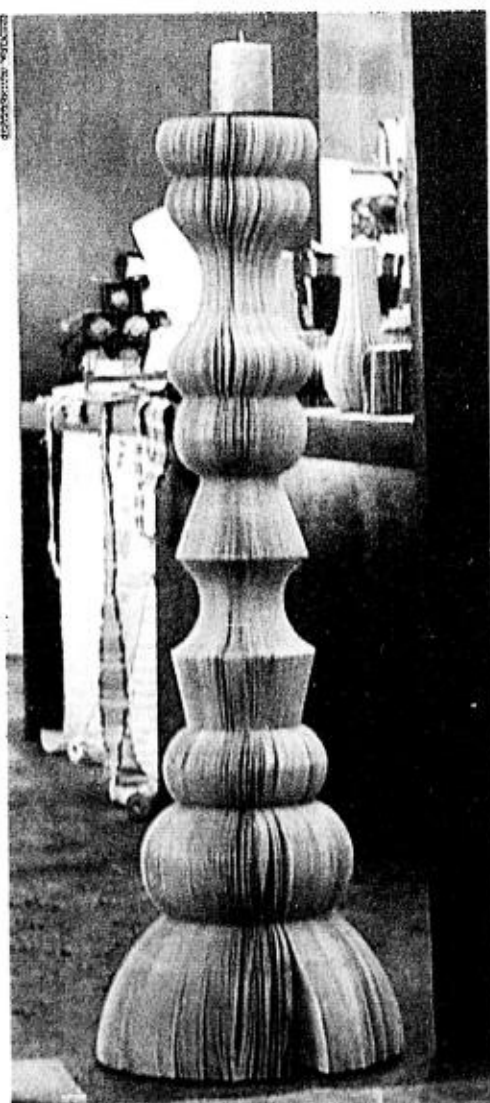


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rate.



Lorenz Inos turns a problem site into a wow garden

page G1



Citem's Fame overrides SARS'

page I1



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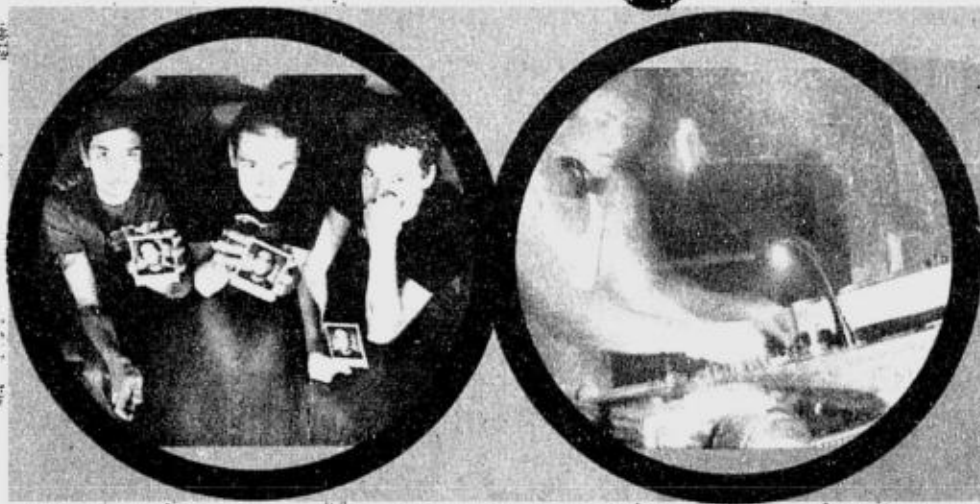
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Wall Climbing
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Henna Tattoo Tents
Free Diving/Snorkeling

May 2

HEY JUDE
Beach Volleyball
Wall Climbing
DJ Gianni

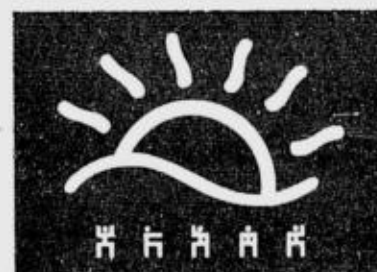
Henna Tattoo Tents
Free Diving/Snorkeling

May 3

HEY JUDE
Beach Football
Wall Climbing
RnB DJ

Henna Tattoo Tents
Free Diving/Snorkeling

Cebu



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KARTZONE
Karting (Qualifying)
Wall Climbing

VUDU
Party

May 2

KARTZONE
Karting (Finals)
Slot Car Race
Wall Climbing
The Dawn

VUDU
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May 3

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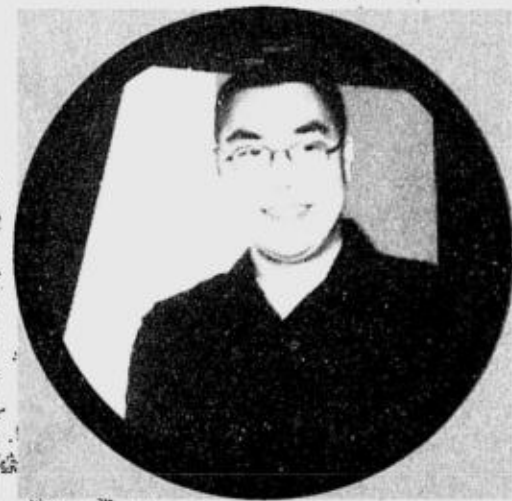
May 2

MARIA OROSA, MALATE
Street Party

May 3

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Spundae
infusion
(Big Fish Party)

Subic



Anton Ramos

TFL Crew

Plus! • Jet-ski • Karting •
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SUBIC INTERNATIONAL
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May 3

SUBIC BOARDWALK
Free Jet-Ski Rides,
Wall Climbing

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High tea with style

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN these crazy times, believe it or not, there's still a considerable number of women who are willing to shell out huge sums for a floral beaded evening gown from Escada or a knit twin set with eye-catching details from St. John. But fear of catching SARS while on a shopping spree in Hong Kong or Singapore has forced many a fashionista to stay put and spend money at home.

And Euromode, Inc., local distributor of Escada, St. John, Vera Mont, Laurel and two other top foreign brands, is more than ready to meet this pent-up desire to shop. It recently launched its latest collection of formal and daytime wear in a two-afternoon fashion show at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"What they have in Hong Kong and Singapore, we also have here," says Marilou Peña Koa, GM of Euromode. "This collection is new and was launched no more than a few months ago in other countries."

German brand Escada led the pack with wearable pieces that celebrated youth, color and romance.

The sequined twin set, for one, hugged the body, while the beaded white gown with a willowy lavender stole came with huge floral patterns in green, pink and lavender.

Women could either hit the gym or go on a serious diet to slip confidently into the spaghetti-strapped gowns, semi-beaded tank tops, horizontal-striped knit blouses and tight-fitting slacks. Short and tight sleeves offer little room to slacken off as well.

"Escada's current collection generally has a more youthful look and feel compared to collections of past seasons," says Koa.

New spin

Escada gave last season's romantic look a new spin in the form of layered chiffon dresses with tiny polka dots and minimal ruffles on the dresses' bodice, skirt and hem of the sleeves.

Indian influences, so in vogue for several seasons now, were evident in stretch blouses in primary colors, and accented with embroidery and cords wound around tiny round mirrors.

The same dangling elements also figured in several pieces that came a tad later. This time, though, the mirrors were confined to the hem of the sleeves.

For the color-shy, there are earth-toned knit separates—from blouses and soft jackets to straight pants and flared skirts with psychedelic prints. Halters and tops with low necklines were more the norm than the exception.

St. John, another pricey brand from the United States, also had its share of office wearables in the form of knit twin sets and tops with bulkier materials and patterns compared to Escada's.

An otherwise plain, finely knit pink dress with matching sweater got some oomph thanks to identical details found on the shoulders, sleeves, bodice and hem of the skirt and sleeves.

Understated

Some of the more noteworthy formal wear included a red long-sleeved dress with twin-beaded trims around the hem of the sleeves and high-neck collar. Burst of what looked like embroidery (or were those appliques?) made a simple two-

INDIAN SUMMER.
Rose-to-beige embroidered gown from Vera Mont



STRIPED top made of wool, rayon and silk is mix-matched with polka-dotted skirt from Escada



FLOUNCED navy blue polka-dotted separates from Escada

HIGH/E3

WHAT'S ON at Robinsons



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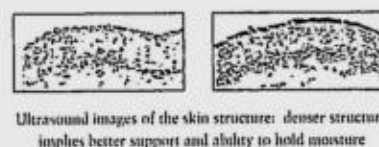
Imedeen!"

Cynthia Elazgui Sanchez,
41, HR Manager
Crisly Elazgui Puzon,
40, Airline Ticketing Supervisor

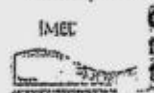
Like all sisters, they share secrets. Like the beauty secret that keeps them looking so young for their age.

"I learned of Imedeen thru my colleague," Crisly confides. "I immediately convinced Cynthia to try it." Pretty soon, both sisters were hooked, and for good reason. "I thought my sunspots and blemishes were there for good – but now they're completely gone," Cynthia shares. "My skin really improved. Feeling ko parang skin ng baby," declares Crisly. That's because only Imedeen helps nourish and strengthen the inner layer of the skin, resulting in more youthful, brighter and even skin tone.

"We're each other's best friends," Cynthia exclaims. "But we both agree, ang best friend ng skin namin is Imedeen!"



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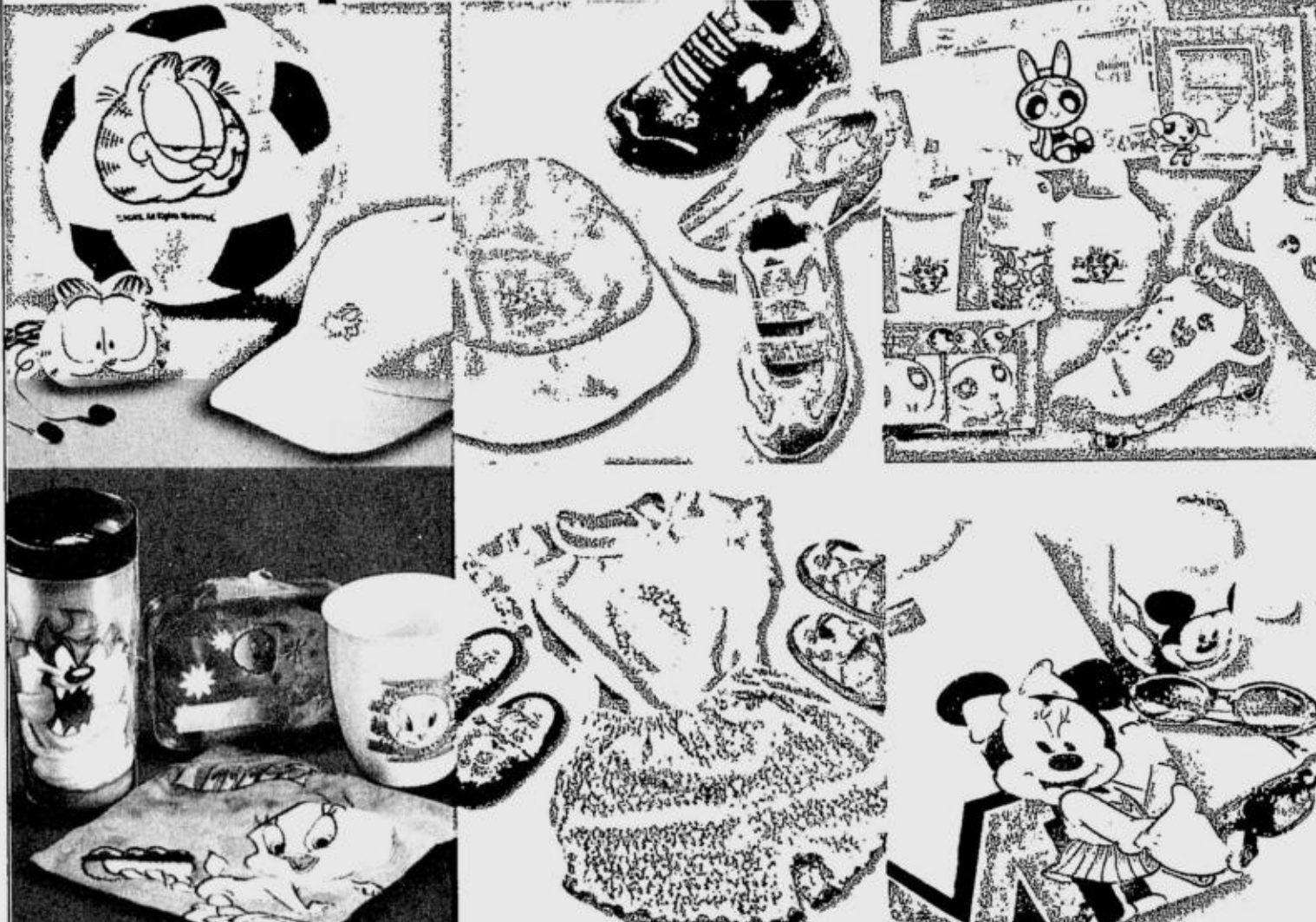
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RDS Ermita 4:00 p.m.
April 27 RDS RP Sta. Rosa 5:00 p.m.

Meet & Greet Garfield

April 26 RDS Pampanga 3:00 p.m.
May 3 RDS Galleria 3:00 p.m.
May 10 RDS Ermita 3:00 p.m.
May 24 RDS RP Sta. Rosa 3:00 p.m.

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tonight, wear a little something to tickle his fancy



COLORS AND HIGHLIGHTS BY

GOING STRAIGHT

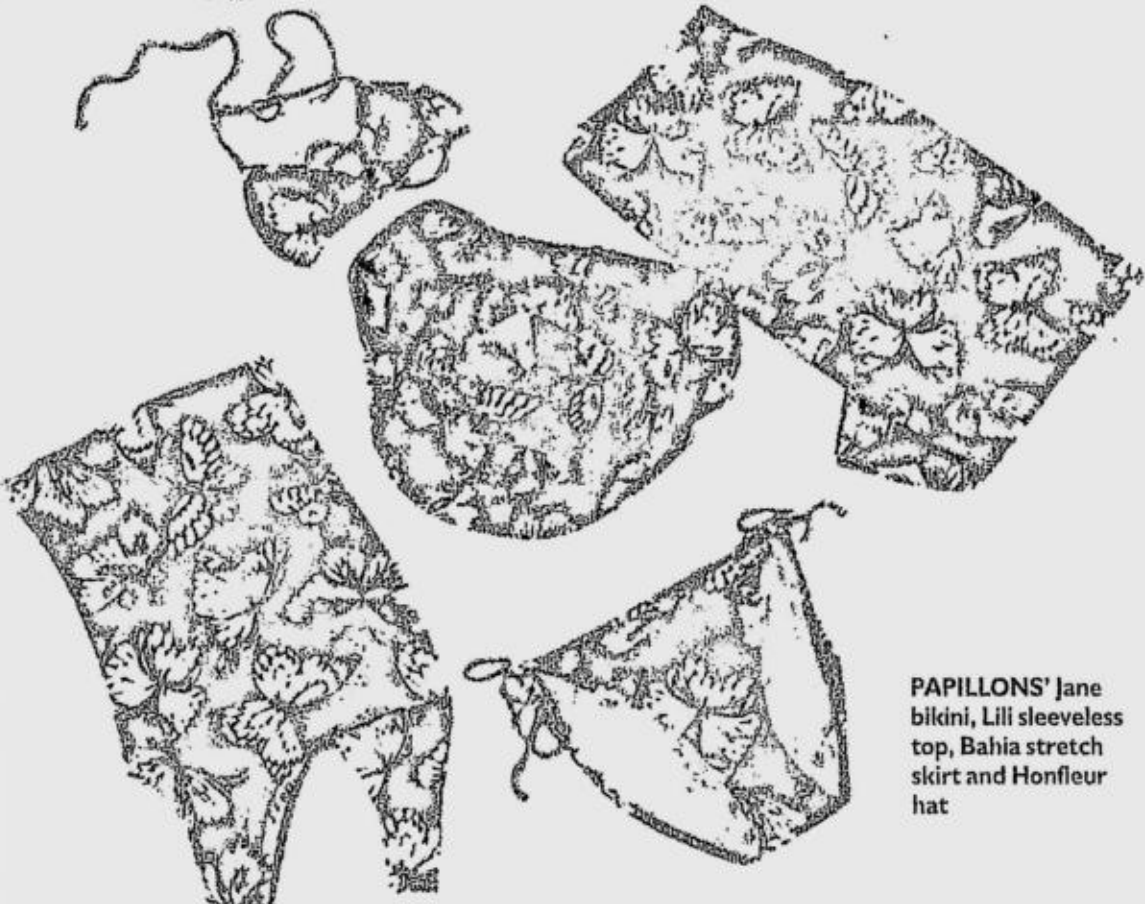
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PAPILLONS' Lucy three-quarter-sleeve shirt and Diana bikini



PAPILLONS' Jane bikini, Lili sleeveless top, Bahia stretch skirt and Honfleur hat

Summer, according to Manuel Canovas

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Mike Alquinto

BLOOM with it. Be ultra hot like it. Or flutter around in it.

French label Manuel Canovas' spring collection is suffused in vibrant patterns and hues that are so true to the fashion house's penchant for colors. From winged butterfly beauties (Papillons) to oceanic gems like shells (Coquillages), from lovely garden blossoms (Passiflores) to enchanting lotus blooms (Lotus) to spicy hot chili pepper (Piments) prints, the collection is a merry toast to the beauty of nature. Colors come in saturated pinks to reds, stimulating yellows to lush greens with hints of soothing blues and purples.

Canovas' swimwear comes in sexy string to French-cut bikinis to boy-leg bottoms with teeny-weeny string, and halter bikini tops with matching cotton sarongs and summer hats. The more conservative maillots are just as enticing.

For resort and casual dressing, Manuel Canovas has cool tunics, pretty empire-waist halter dresses, Capri pants and knee-length skirts, peasant, short-sleeve and three-quarter-sleeve tops and button-down shirts. If head-to-toe color coordinated dressing is not your thing, you can always pick these pieces to brighten up your existing wardrobe. They are excellent to perk up your solid pieces. And there's no question the collection's bags will jazz up even the drabest outfit.

If you have wads of dough and scrimping on style is unheard of to you, Manuel Canovas is for you.

MANUEL CANOVAS' SPRING 2003 COLLECTION IS EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT WISH BOUTIQUE, G/F MAKATI SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING ARCADE, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

Wish boutique is abloom and aflutter with the French label's collection for this season



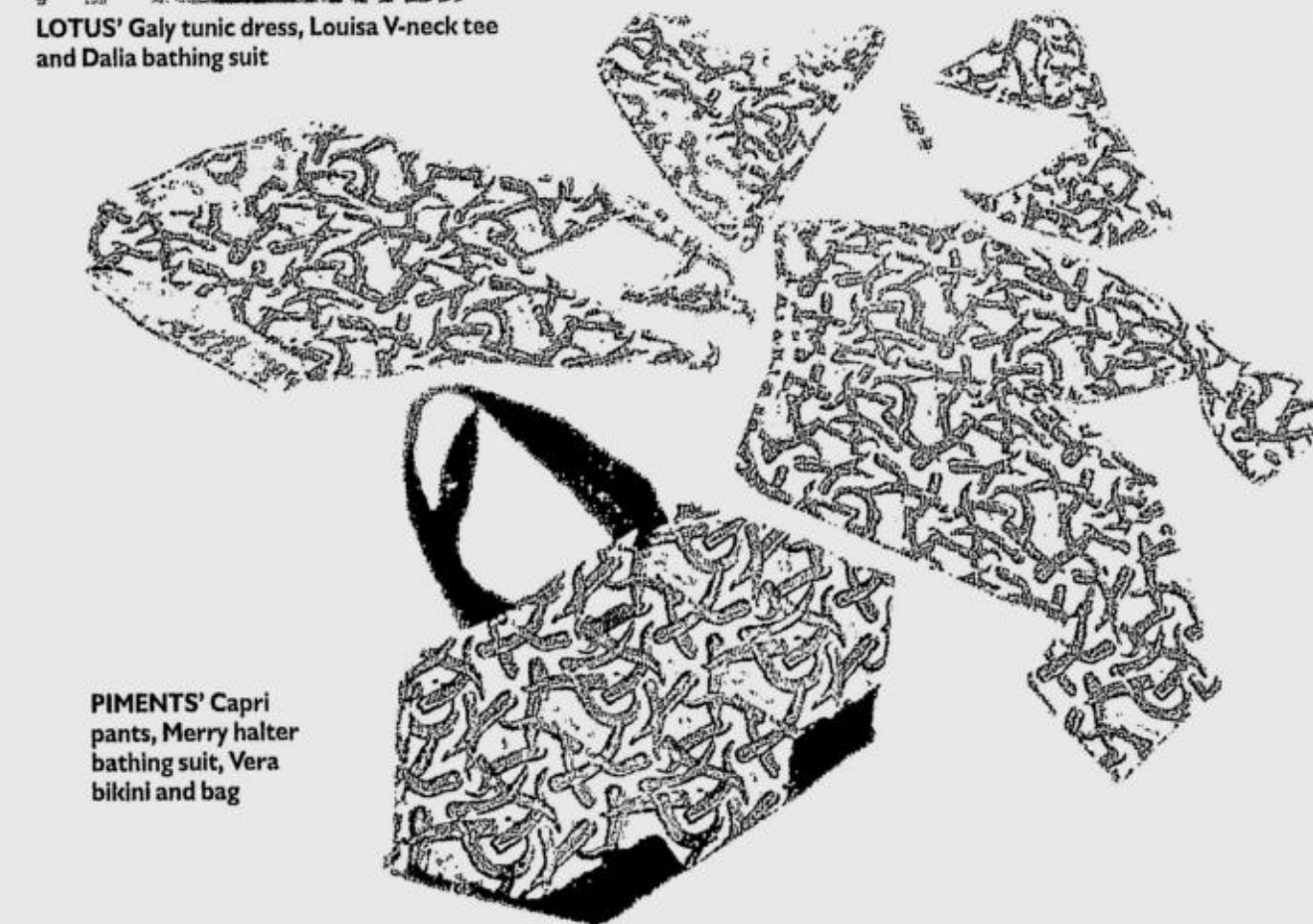
LOTUS' Rosa V-neck dress and Vera bikini



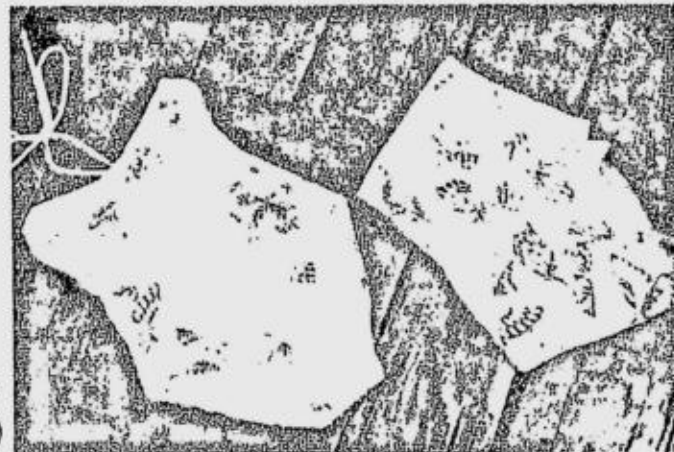
PASSIFLORES' Lolita halter dress and Fabi pants



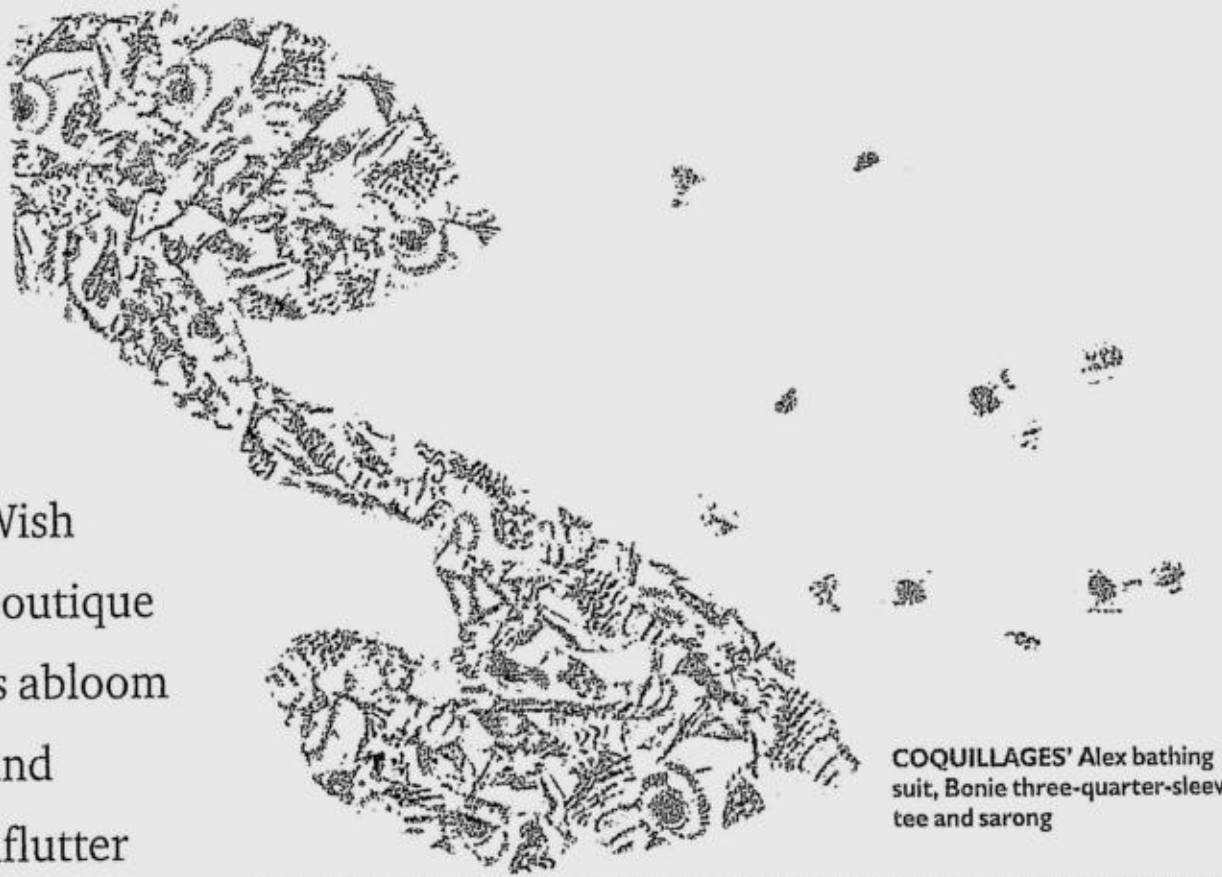
LOTUS' Galy tunic dress, Louisa V-neck tee and Dalia bathing suit



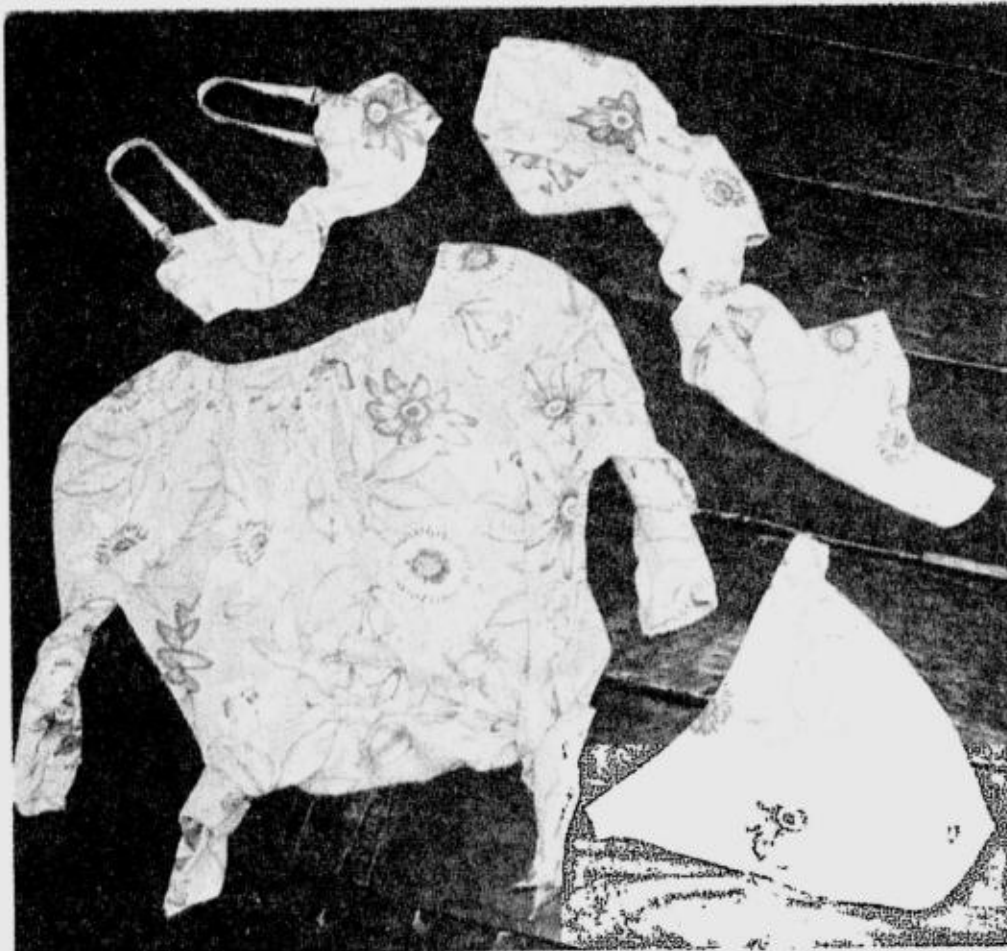
PIMENTS' Capri pants, Merry halter bathing suit, Vera bikini and bag



PAPILLONS' Anita bandeau swimsuit and Clea hipster shorts



COQUILLAGES' Alex bathing suit, Bonie three-quarter-sleeve tee and sarong



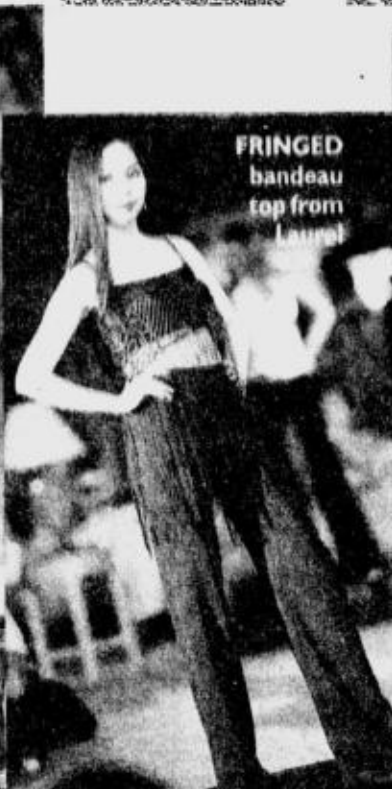
PASSIFLORES' June peasant top, Sami bikini and sarong



COQUILLAGES' Bonie three-quarter-sleeve tee and Costa pants



SEQUINED long dress with lavender and pink roses from Escada



FRINGED bandeau top from Laurel



RAYON and polyester blend top in chocolate with printed asymmetrical silk skirt from Laurel



MARILOU Peña Koa (second from left) with the afternoon show's models

High tea with style

From page E1

piece navy blue number more interesting. "St. John is more understated compared to other brands," says Koa. "But there's also an attempt among the brand's designers to play with more colors this season."

The show also had its share of ho-hum moments. It seems designers of German brand Betty Barclay haven't had enough of the peasant blouse and its many reincarnations.

They tried to rework the tired silhouette with little effect by layering it with a spaghetti-strapped chiffon dress or pairing it with a pair of palazzo pants. No matter how they chose to do it, however, most of the pieces in this particular segment looked so last year. Come on, it's time to give the garterized, off-the-shoulder look a rest.

For the young and the restless, Koa recently added Laurel to the mix. A black see-through blouse revealed beaded brassieres. An ensemble of pants and spaghetti-strapped bandeau had fringes that cascaded from the model's stomach down to her upper thighs.

"Laurel caters to a segment of the market we haven't been hitting before," says Koa. "The clothes are generally classic pieces, but they're sexier, younger and priced lower."

And since prices of all Euromode brands,

Euromode unveils its

Escada, Laurel, St. John,

Vera Mont and Betty

Barclay collections for

the shopping pleasure of

homebound fashionistas

says Koa, are comparable if not lower to those sold in other parts of the world. Filipinas have little reason to shop abroad in typical fashion and risk exposing themselves to atypical viruses.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

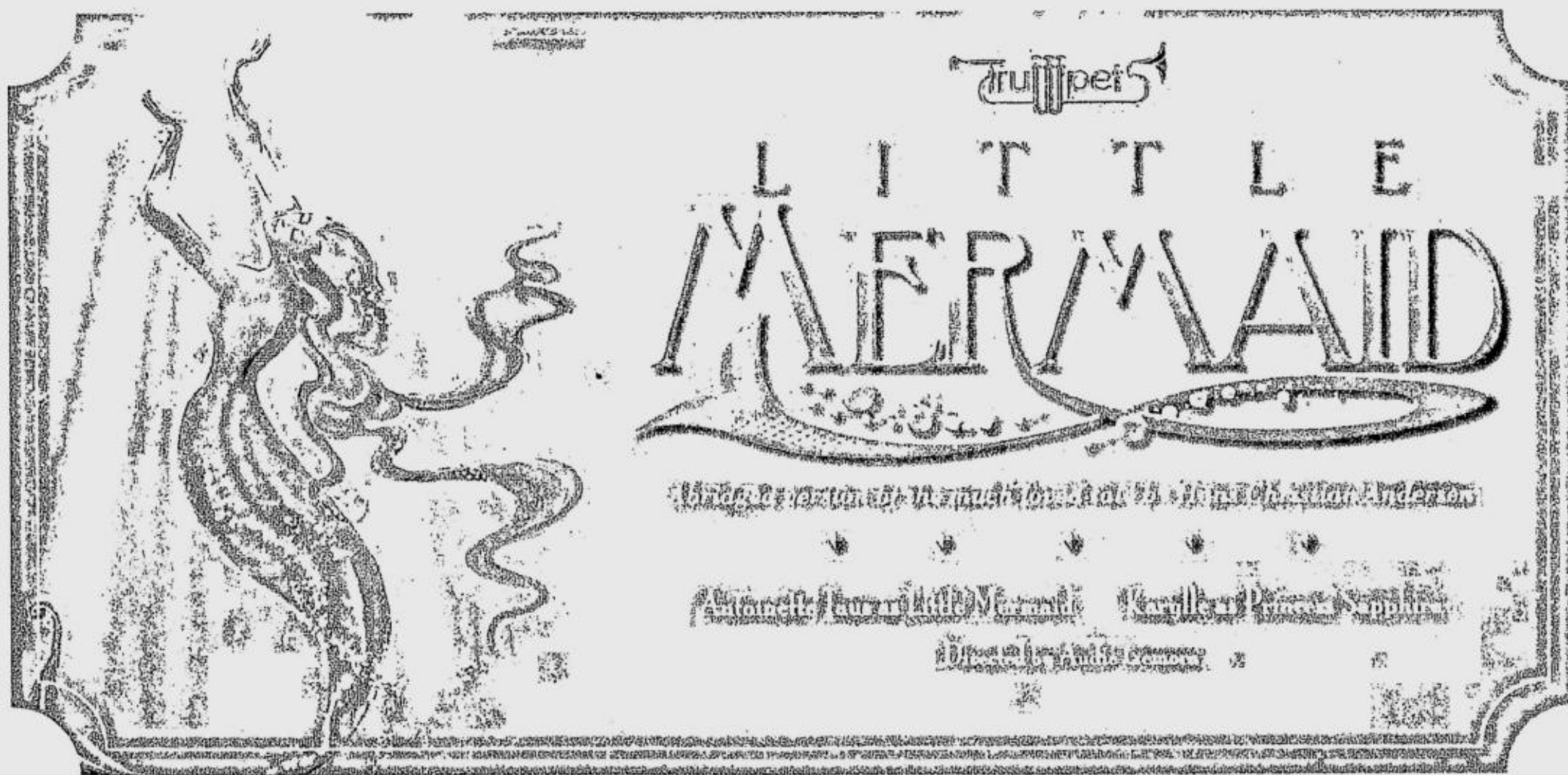


CLASSIC beige and gold jacket with matching shell and pants from St. John



PINK knit dress with detailing from St. John

BEIGE polyester jacket over a brown knit top with fringes and beadings from Laurel



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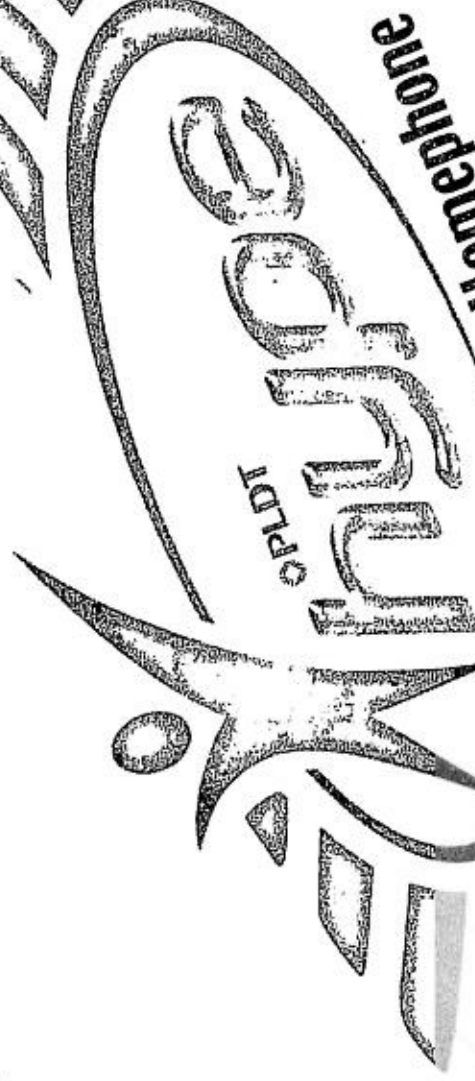


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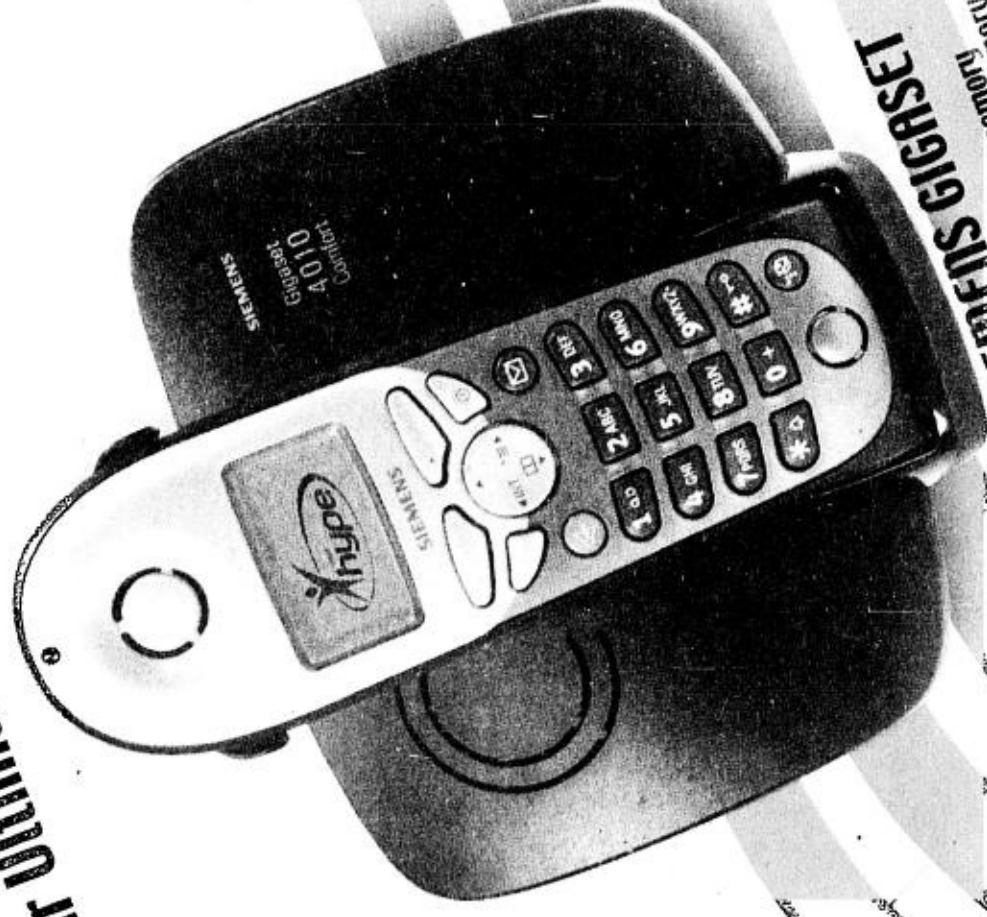
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Go to your nearest PLDT Business Office or any PLDT retail partner. Simply fill out an application form and submit the completed form to the sales representative. For faster processing of application, please bring any valid ID (SSS, TIN, Driver's License) and latest PLDT statement of account. PLDT HYPE will be activated within 3 working days.

PROMO OFFER:

1) FREE first 2 months of the PLDT Hype plans as follows:

Monthly Charge	P 250	P 550
Caller ID	P 50	P 50
Consumable Text Charges	P 200	P 500

Plans include free texting privileges:

Landline to Landline	75	200
Landline to Cellular	45	110
Landline to Cellular	30	90

After 2 months, PLDT Hype Plan charges will be applied on the PLDT Monthly Statement of Account. Hype Plan charge is on top of the regular basic monthly telephone charges.

2) Text usage in excess of the FREE plan value and FREE texting privileges will be charged to subscriber's PLDT Monthly Statement of Account. Price per text is as follows:

Landline to Landline	P 0.50
Landline to Cellular	P 1.00
International	P 15.00

WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO JOIN:

- 1) All existing PLDT residential direct line subscribers (excluding PLDT Telesit and Teletip).
- 2) All new PLDT Post Paid residential direct line installations (those who paid for the line) during the promo period.

HOW TO QUALIFY:

- 1) To avail of the promo offer, subscribers must first purchase any of the following PLDT Hype texting devices at any PLDT Business Office and authorized outlets:

Siemens Gigaset	P 4,000
Atlinks Biloba	P 2,000
TXTPAD	P 1,500

- 2) Upon purchase of any of the PLDT HYPE texting devices, subscriber must enroll in a PLDT Hype Plan P250 or P550 by accomplishing a PLDT HYPE application form.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- 1) Promo period is from April 20, 2003 to July 31, 2003.
- 2) There could only be one Plan for each direct line.
- 3) PLDT reserves the right not to sell PLDT HYPE texting devices to subscribers whose lines are not in good standing.
- 4) Should they discontinue subscriptions to Plan for less than a year, they will be charged a termination fee of P1,500.
- 5) Should a subscriber downgrade his Plan from P550 to P250 for less than a year, he will be charged a downgrade fee of P300.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN TELESIT

Landline to Landline	P 0.75	TXTPAD	P 2,300
Landline to Cellular	P 1.25	Atlinks Biloba	P 2,900
International	P 15.00	Siemens Gigaset	P 5,500

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LIFESTYLE

Hottest self-tanning choices

DOING things the "natural way" has been synonymous with being healthy. However, that does not hold true for the perfect tan because the only natural way to get it is through sunbathing. We all know how the sun can make us age and damage our skin.

For me, "perfect tanning" also has to be safe and controlled in intensity and evenness. People want to tan because it's the easiest way to look thinner and camouflage scars and cellulite exposed by summer wear and swimsuits.

That is where self tanners come in. It is instant, fades in two to three days max if you don't like the color, and you can always add more if it is too light for you.

These two brands have the most complete set.

Clarins has received the most rave reviews in In style and Allure magazines, and among friends in media. Phytomer, a fairly new brand, is based on marine-based products for our hair and skin care needs. The latter is Pamela Anderson's skin-care line for VIP (check out www.make-up411.com). The evenness of her tan inspired me to request a road test.

I chose these two because they do not give my yellow-toned Asian skin an orangey tint like most brands but a golden one.

The difference? Clarins' self tanning gel goes on deeper while Phytomer's spray-on tanner is easier to adjust so I was first a golden caramel with it as opposed to Clarins' medium bronze right away.

Steps to tanning

1. Hair removal—

You need about 24 hours for preparation especially if you have lots of body hair. Waxing is the best procedure because this yanks hair out from the root so there are no rough stubbles to interfere with the smoothness of application. Remember, any roughness will cause blotchy color and looks dirty. Twenty-four hours is needed for skin sensitivity to settle down. Waxed skin is tender and leaves pores open so applying any product too soon hurts and will be uneven so please wait. Best done by a professional.

2. Exfoliate—On the day of application, exfoliate your body with Clarins Body Exfoliant in a tube or Phytomer's Exfoliating Soap (P360). Give your self a thorough rubdown, making sure you have covered every square inch of areas you will expose and dry with a towel. Run fingers over skin to check for rough patches. When all is clear...

3. Moisturize areas so tanner will glide on and spread easier. Un-moisturized skin will lead you to use more self-tanner than necessary and risk streaks.

4. Apply tanner all over body evenly and wash palms well right after because it will stain them.

5. Color will show within a few minutes to hours and will last three days max.

6. Reapply if you want to stay tanned longer or if it was not dark enough for you.

Phytomer price list: 1. Instant Self Tanning Spray (125ml, P995) for a light golden tan; 2. Intensive Tanning Oil SPF4 (P950)—Formulated for darker or tanned skin already.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

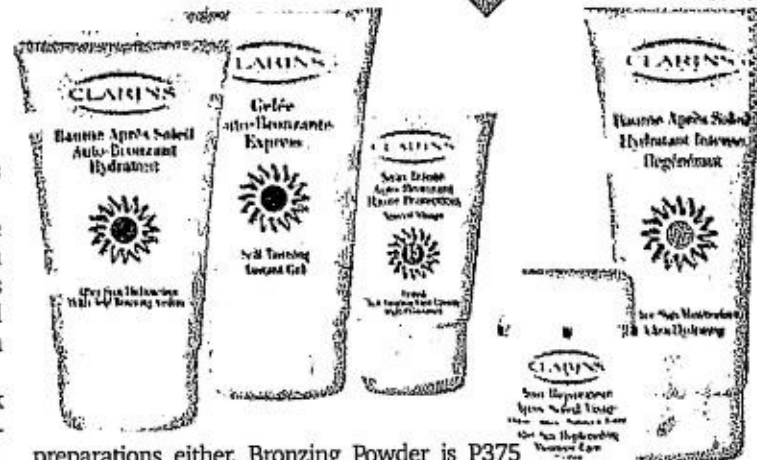


Maintains tan longer. 3. Moisturizing Sun Lotion SPF7 (P950)—I used this to moisturize pre-tanning spray. Note: All sun lotions ideal for face and body and are matte finish. Non-greasy and won't clog pores but smoothes skin. 4. High Protection Sun Lotion SPF 15 (P950) 5. Absolute Solar Protection SPF30 (P995)—My choice of sun lotion for I don't want to burn. 6. After Sun Soothing

Lotion (P950)—cools heated skin and prevents sun burn agony.

Want the tan to be even more temporary? Like say a few hours only and on a certain area? Use a bronzer or liquid body make-up. Max Factor has a line called Sun Kissed bronzing powder and body makeup. The fastest way to get a golden tan, you can adjust it and wash off.

I apply the bronzing powder on my face, neck and shoulders to highlight and define certain areas while I put the body makeup on my arms, legs and back. It gives me that J.Lo shimmer, and it is by far the most reasonably priced of all powders and body makeup of good quality. If you're too fickle about tanning as I am (want to be light this morning and dark tonight and light again the next day), this is for you! It doesn't take long



preparations either. Bronzing Powder is P375 while Shimmer Gel (body makeup) is P355.

CLARINS tanning line

Phytomer and Clarins are available exclusively at Rustan's while Max Factor is available at leading department stores like Rustan's, SM, Robinsons, Landmark, Mercury Drug and Glorietta.

Celebrating the Queen of Hearts

This May, join Shopwise in paying tribute to the Filipino mom. Visit any Shopwise branch for everyday low prices and fabulous gifts fit for the true queen of everyone's hearts.

Book of Love

SHOPWISE

A minimum purchase of P500 enables one to join the Search for the Mother with the most number of children. Registration from May 29-May 31. P50,000 prize at stake per store!

ALABANG MAKATI LIBIS

Pretty purses go from poolside to parties

WHETHER for city streets or sandy beaches, Lancel has created bags that are as feminine as they are modern.

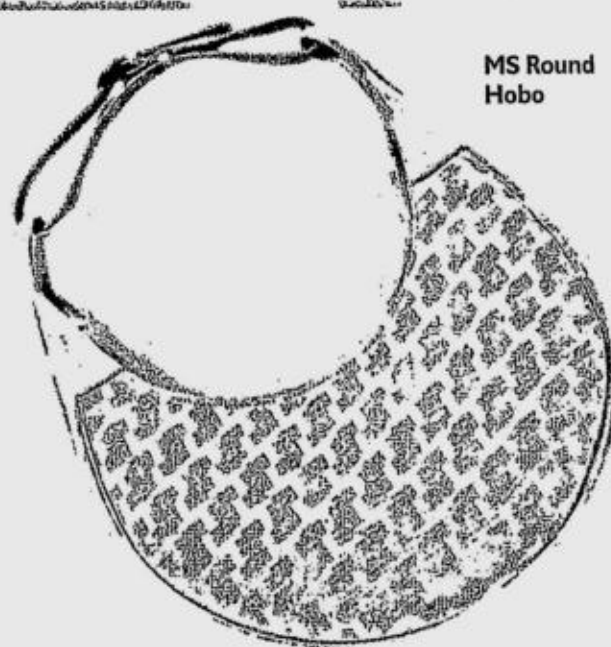
Pure and supple forms, original creations and noble materials come together beautifully to give the Lancel style a touch of everyday elegance and discreet luxury.

A play on color against a backdrop of Mediterranean blue and a patchwork of brown and tan. Stylized clutch bags and totes for a sport and chic spirit. Small bags whose sophisticated, elegant design has made them an all-time classic.

The Spring/Summer 2003 collection from Lancel is irresistible in every way.



SHOULDER pouch



MS Round Hobo



MS Medium Hobo



LE Parisien

Refreshing candy colors

COOL down from the heat this season by wearing refreshing summer colors, which, according to Rustan's Jill, include lime, honey and peach, and match this with a fresh face from Clinique's color palette. Rustan's classic female fashion brand Jill offers candy-colored tops and partners with Clinique, a prestigious makeup brand available also at Rustan's, to create refreshing summer looks.



EARTH-toned Jill sleeveless knit in honey goes with Clinique's Moisture Surge Lipstick SPF 15 in Go-Go Pink, Mocha Pink Soft-Pressed Powder Blusher and Sweethearts High Impact Eye Shadow Duo.



PEACH knit tops from Jill are best worn with Glosswear and Brush SPF 8 in Nude Nectar on the lips to create that tone-on-tone palette. Emphasize eyes with High Impact Eye Shadow in Rosebeam Sugar Sugar and define with Blue Grey Quickliner. Complete with Rosy Blush Blushwear.



BLACK ruffled Jill knits go with Clinique's Sable Shimmer Touch Tint for Eyes, Almost Black Eye-Shading Pencil, Warm Raisin Soft-Pressed Powder Blusher and Raspberry Glace Different Lipstick.



BLUE DENIM thong-style mule with light blue leather strap studded with rhinestones.

ETHNIC. Francesco's thong mule in cerf kid leather with colorful wooden beads on strap.

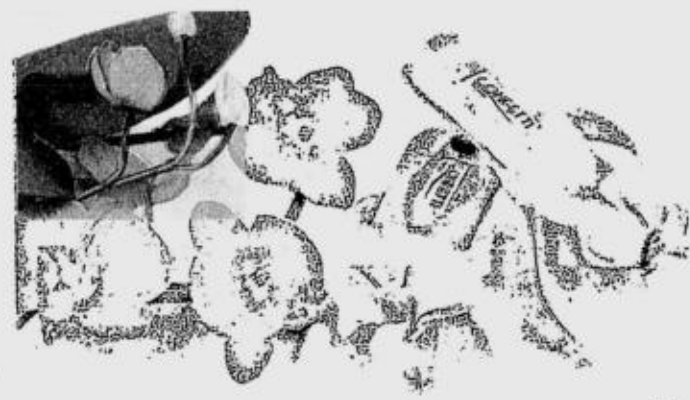
Slip and slide into summer

STRAPPY statements in colors plucked fresh from orchid gardens and lush fields of daisies and dandelions are the footwear craze of the moment.

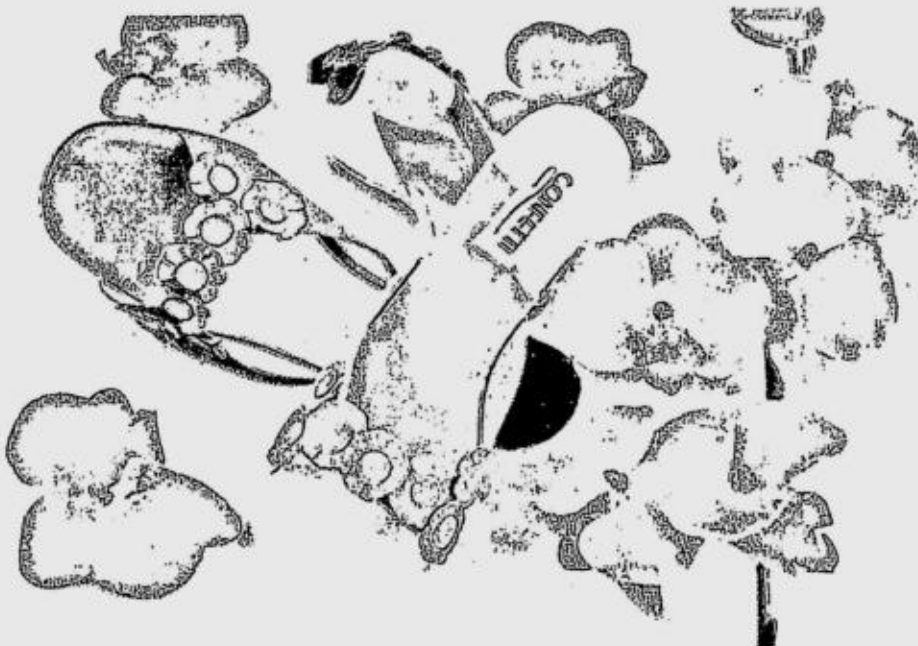
The latest collection of leg-flattering slip-ons, slides and thongs are functional but pretty and dressed up enough to see summer through.

CONFETTI OUTLETS ARE AT GLORIETTA 1; ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM CITY ANNEX, NORTH EDSA, SM MEGAMALL, SM SOUTH MALL, SM CITY BACOR, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORES IN GALLERIA, METRO EAST, NOVALICHES, INUS, BACOLOD AND ILOILO, ALL MALL AND STA. LUCIA EAST DEPARTMENT STORE.

FRANCESCO BOUTIQUES ARE LOCATED AT GLORIETTA 2, AYALA CENTER, SM MEGAMALL 8, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM CITY-BACOR, SHOPPESVILLE, AND AT THE RECENTLY OPENED BRANCH IN SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL.



CATTLEYAS. Confetti's sexy thongs adorned with flowerettes travel well and go with anything from sarongs to pareos.



FLIRTY FLORALS. Confetti's leather slides with 3-inch spiked heels add romance to your warm weather wardrobe with applied flowers. In white, camel and aqua.



SUMMER TIME

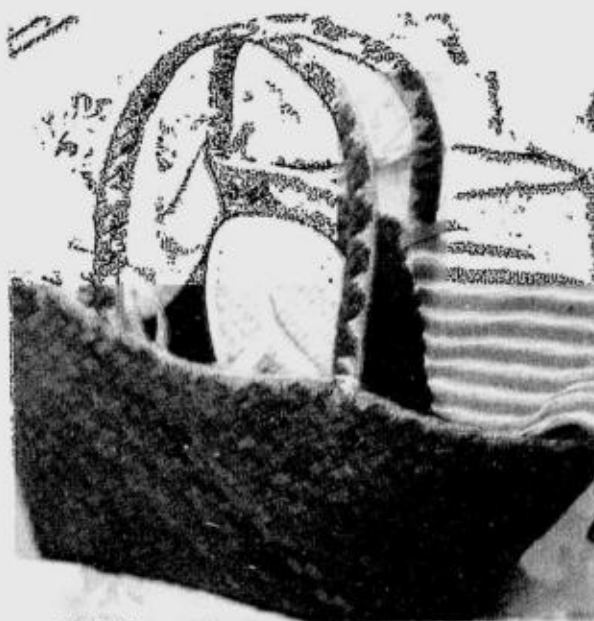
Hang out with Swatch Tile, in bright fuchsia and violet and mellow light blue (above). Have fun together with (left) Swatch Ciel Etoile and Swatch Arancione di Sera. The blue leather strap with embossed motif is a perfect for anything you wear under the sun. Zesty orange should keep boredom away as it adds a touch of brightness on your wrist. Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Inc. and is available at all Swatch stores, kiosks and Gift Gate stores nationwide.

New island collection for sunshiny days

ISLANDS Souvenirs recently launched its latest apparel and accessories for summer at Ayala Center Cebu. The promo dubbed "Summer in Cebu" offers mall shoppers a chance to win attractive Islands Souvenirs items until May 31.

Apart from its anchor store at the West Wing, Islands Souvenirs has installed two additional stalls in the mall to provide numerous tourists with more shopping convenience. The colorful mall decoration that Islands Souvenirs conceptualized for Ayala Center Cebu entices shoppers to enjoy summer.

Some of Islands Souvenirs' products include swimwear in bright and pastel colors, native handbags, flip flops, and floral board shorts.



Clean to distressed cuts in cool colors

THE TEAM of Salon de Manila, led by artistic director Pin Antonio, welcomes summer with a fresh and fuss-free collection of hairstyles.

Dubbed the Seamless Deconstruction-Distressed collection, Antonio mastered the new look after completing coloring and cutting classes at the Toni & Guy Academy in London. The Deconstruction-Distressed look is the style du jour for summer because it is crisp, clean and cool.

"It suits both men and women," Antonio explains the style's androgynous appeal. "And it's perfect for summer because it emphasizes freshness. And it's no-fuss and so easy to maintain. Moreover, there is no need to put on sticky mousse or wax, which can make you feel even hotter in this climate." In terms of cuts, it is soft and allows maximum movement.

And when it comes to colors, Salon de

Manila has whipped up modish and modern shades. "We came up with a new shade of ash," Antonio elaborates. "In the past, ash platinum was the trend. Now, we're introducing ash that leans toward brown. It also looks neat and very hip."

That is the bottom line this summer: Clean cuts and cool colors. "People often come here when they have hair problems," Antonio relates. "We call it trouble-shooting. Since we are all properly trained, we know how to deal with hair that has been damaged by chemicals, coloring, and reckless cutting." Antonio and her staff make it a point to restore dry, damaged tresses back to life before working on them. "It's what we call total maintenance," she quips.

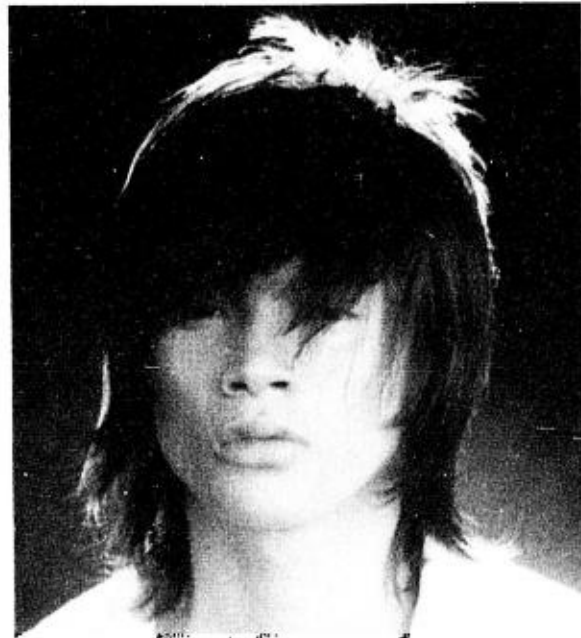
"We don't just color and cut hair indiscriminately, we make sure that our client's hair is healthy," she remarks. "We remove the residues and build-up first with hair



ALLAN Dyquiango and Saintz Reyes, distressed textures with channeling coloring



PATTY Syquia, deep slicing



BIM Cecilio, deconstruction with levels coloring



ANIE Cervantes, seamless with surface color

treatments before adding on another layer of color." Because of their strict adherence to "wholistic service and precision cutting," is it any wonder why Salon de Manila has excelled in the hair industry for the past 20 years?

Antonio, however, doesn't want to hog all the credit for Salon de Manila's two decades of success. "We're a team. We work side by side. We work with love, respect, and joy in our hearts. Each salon is headed by a team leader with assistants and colorists," she credits the creative staff.

Teresita is assisted by Bing and colorist Angie at 595 Banawe St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC. with tel. 732-6014 and 732-1490. Ross is assisted by Merly and colorist Lilia at 243 Tomas Morato St., QC, with tel.

373-9510 to 11. It's Ellen assisted by Pocholo and Perly and colorist Gloria at 219 Katipunan Ave., YDG Building Blue Ridge, QC, with tel. 437-9796 to 97 or 913-5632. At Salcedo, it's Gary assisted by Marivic and Josie and colorist Jon-Jon at Somerset Bldg., H.V. de la Costa corner L.P. Leviste Street, with tel. 888-6651 and 887-5758. At Legaspi, it's Jomar assisted by Salve and colorist Diony at LPL Towers, 112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village near Greenbelt, with tel. 816-7920, 817-6627 or 893-1309. And in Alabang, it's Gerry assisted by Gina.

"Salon's colorists are highly skilled and creative. Also, they work hand in hand with the cutter to achieve the season's look. Like this summer, it's the Deconstruction-Distressed collection," Antonio says.

Promo lets men live their fantasy

JAG Jeans and men's magazine FHM have launched the "Red Hot Fantasy" promo up to June 28.

A minimum purchase of P500 (including exclusive early edition FHM magazine and Jag premium packs worth P200) in selected Jag outlets nationwide entitles customers to one Jag FHM Red Hot Ballot for the "100 Sexiest Women" count.

Prizes at stake are tickets to the exclusive FHM Kick-Off party and Victory party, a chance to watch the FHM monthly covergirl pictorial and be featured in FHM magazine with an FHM babe.

To join the contest, a customer should fill in the ballots with his name, age, address, telephone or cell phone number and signature. Completed ballot should be submitted to a Jag representative with the receipt for validation then dropped in drop boxes found in Jag outlets.

Two winners in May will get to watch an exclusive FHM pictorial and be featured in the FHM magazine. In June, Jag Jeans raffles off 70 FHM "World's Sexiest Women" Victory Party invitations. Two more lucky Jag buyers will get a chance at the other prizes.

Bandera

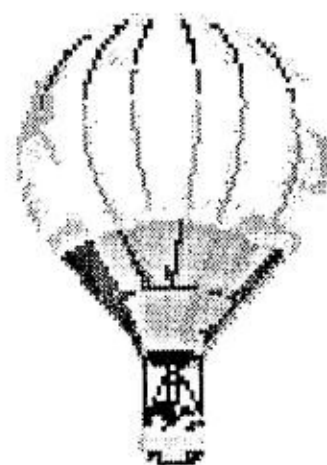
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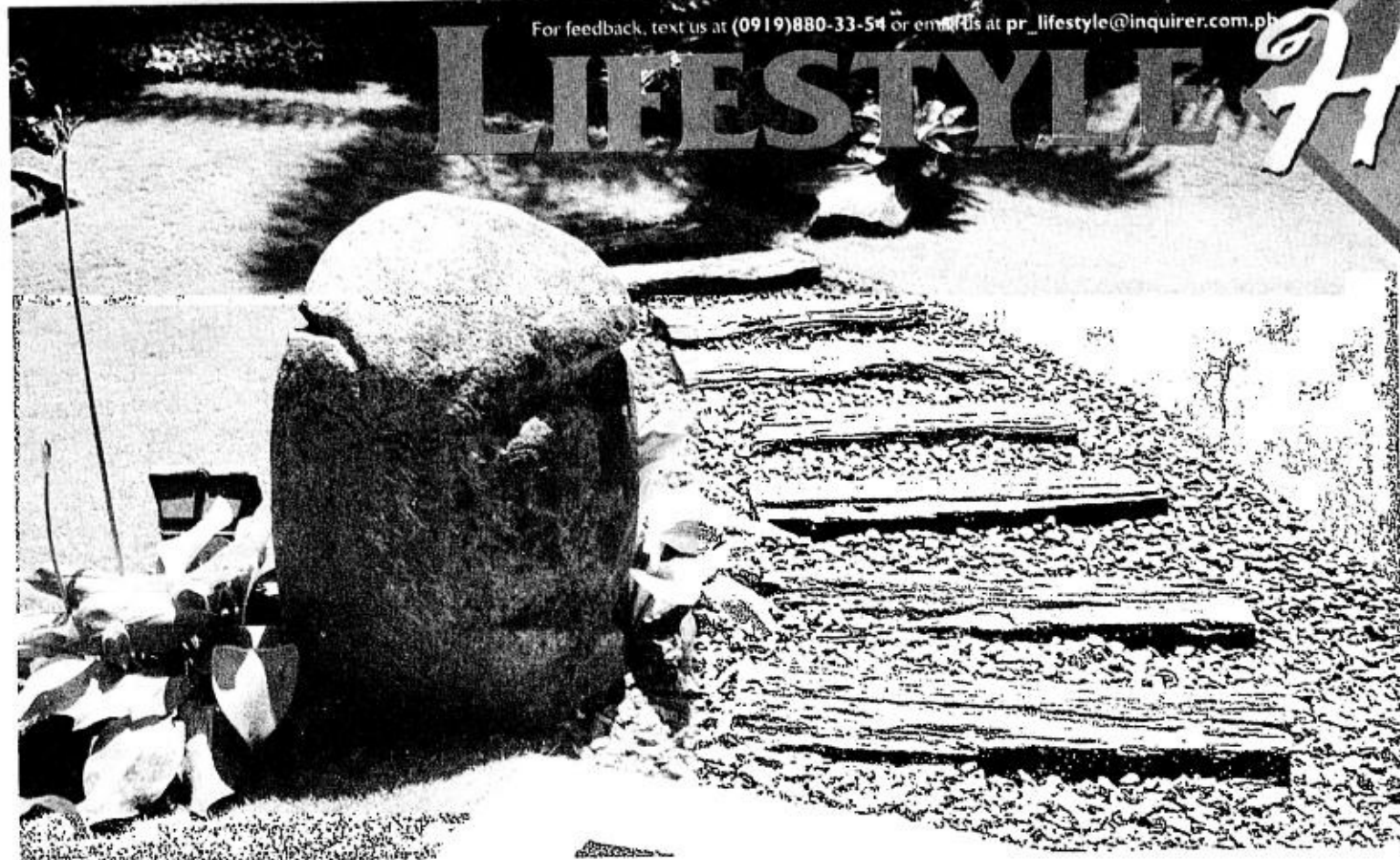
HERE'S HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT PROMO:

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2. Simply purchase any of the PLDT Hype texting units and apply for either a PLDT Hype Plan P250 or Plan P550 at any PLDT Business Office or authorized retail partner.

HURRY! VISIT YOUR NEAREST PLDT BUSINESS OFFICE, CALL 171, OR READ POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS.

PLDT HYPE AVAILABLE IN THESE OUTLETS: ALL PLDT BUSINESS OFFICES/ ABENSON: Taguiman, Malabon, Congressional, Jaka, Filinvest, Alabang, Ermita, Harrison Plaza, Makati, Glorietta, Cainta 1, Pasig, Shangrila, Unimart, Quezon City, Rustan's, SM City, Kalookan/ TRUE VALUE: Shangrila, Harrison Plaza, Makati, Rockwell, Alabang/ RUSTAN'S: Alabang, Shangrila, Makati, Tower, Harrison Plaza/ MEGACELLULAR/All Outlets/ QUICKCOM: SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, Cebu, Iloilo/ WINTELCOM: Malate/ SHOPWISE: Makati, Libis, Alabang/ ELECTROWORLD: SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Alabang, Manila, Greenbelt, Sta. Rosa, Alabang Town Center, New Farmers Plaza, Pampanga, Cainta, Fairview, Parksquare/ SHOPWISE: Makati, Libis, Alabang/ DO-IT-YOURSELF: Ortigas, Greenhills, Fairview, Sta. Rosa/ AUTOMATIC/SOGO: Cubao, Festival Mall, Rob. Novales, Glorietta, North Edsa, Rob. Galleria, Alif Mall, Alabang, Tutuban, Greenbelt, Greenhills, Las Pinas

LIFESTYLE Home



Turning a difficult site into a showcase garden

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Betsy Johnson

LANDSCAPE artist Lorenz Inos has turned a difficult site up in an Antipolo subdivision into a showcase garden that has become the envy of residents and passersby.

Visible from the street are lush

Boston ferns on the second floor balcony of the main house. Orchids, ferns and bromeliads peep from their mount on the dark trunk of a very old sampalok tree in front of the house. The picture-perfect sight proclaims that garden lovers live in the house.

Indeed, owners Michael and Precy Reeby are avid garden lovers. Their numerous plants are living proofs of their many forays

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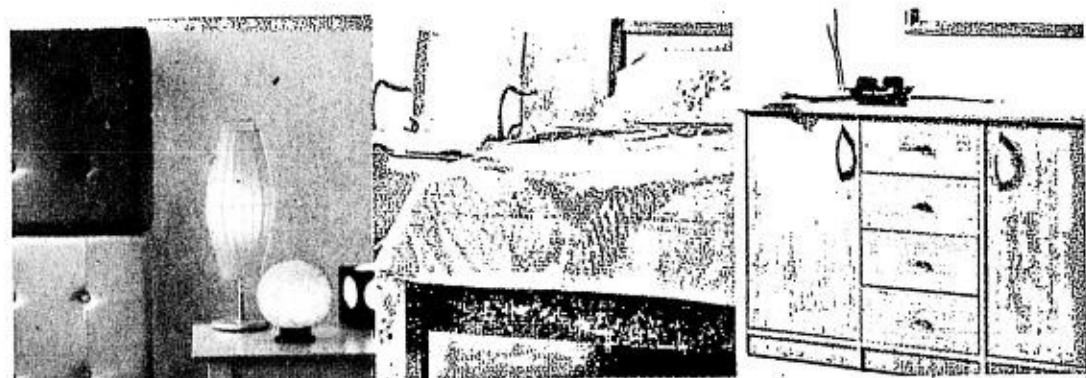
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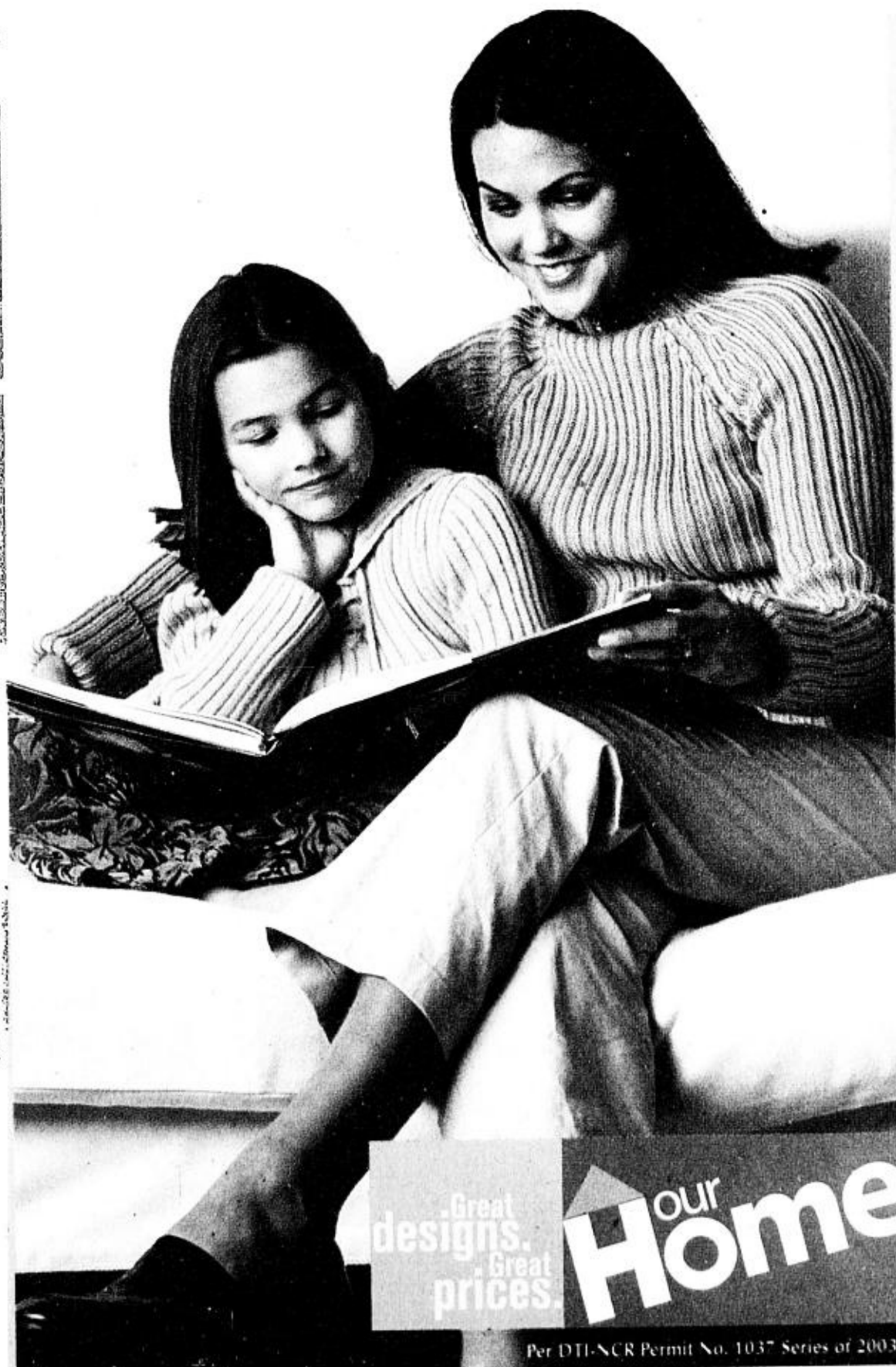
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Turning a difficult site into a showcase garden

From page G1

into plant markets and garden shows. Name it they have it—bromeliads of all kinds, spathiphyllum, palms, cacti and succulents, ferns, orchids, groundcovers, grasses and many, many more.

But it is the well-kept landscape that bespeaks of the couple's fondness for gardens. "When we're in town, we practically live in the garden," the well-traveled couple said. Michael is an electrical engineer and works in a ship while Precy cultivates onions in a farm in Nueva Ecija.

"We wanted a garden we could live in and be proud of," Precy explained. Previous landscapers failed to come up with their choice design. "We wanted a landscape that would make us feel good," she said. It was only Inos who managed to transform their dream into reality.

Difficult site

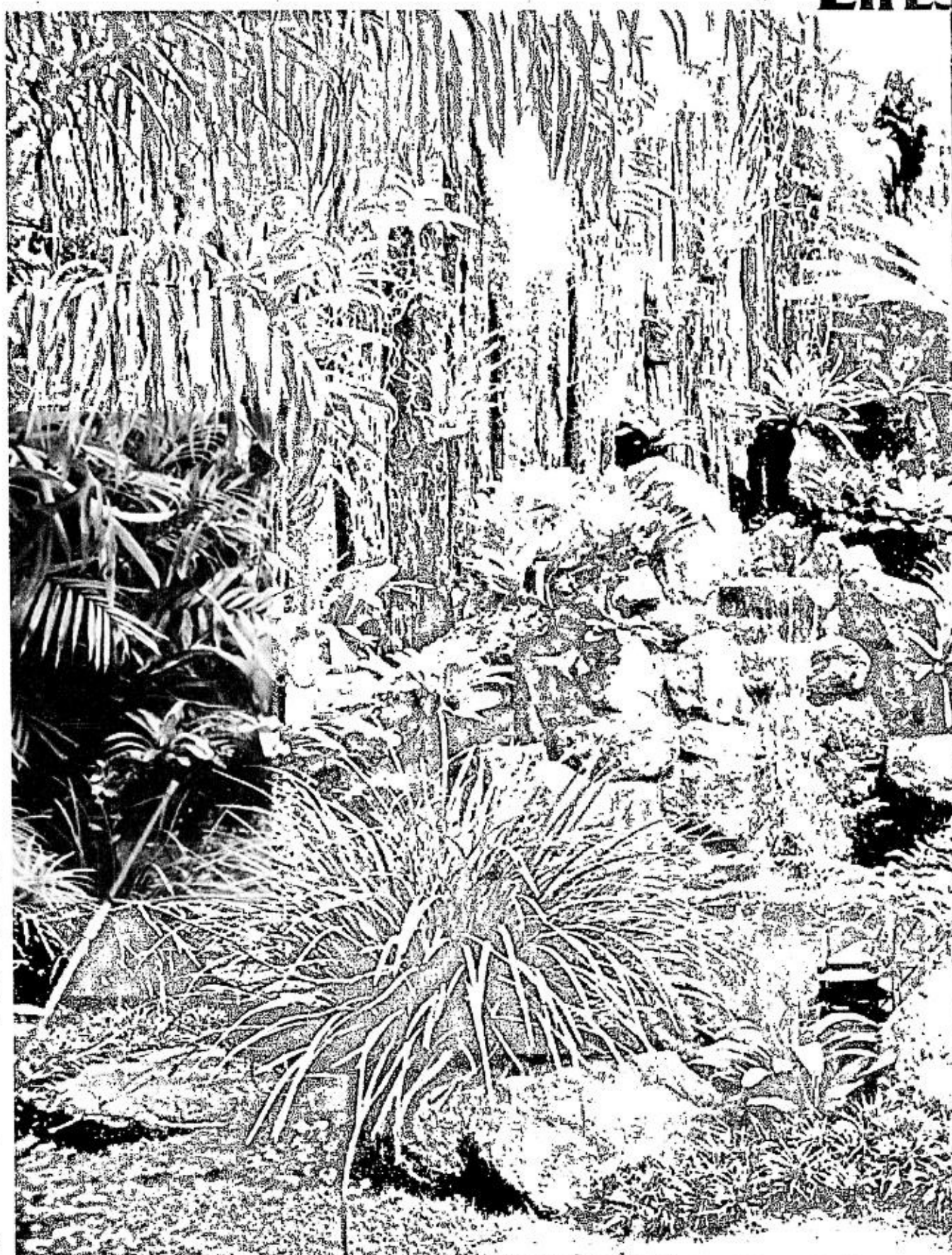
It was evident that the site, two properties

that were merged, was a landscaper's nightmare. Like other lots in the area, the property was oddly-shaped with an irregular ground and rough edges. There's no privacy from neighbors. Moreover, an ancient *sampalok* tree stood like an eyesore in front of the house.

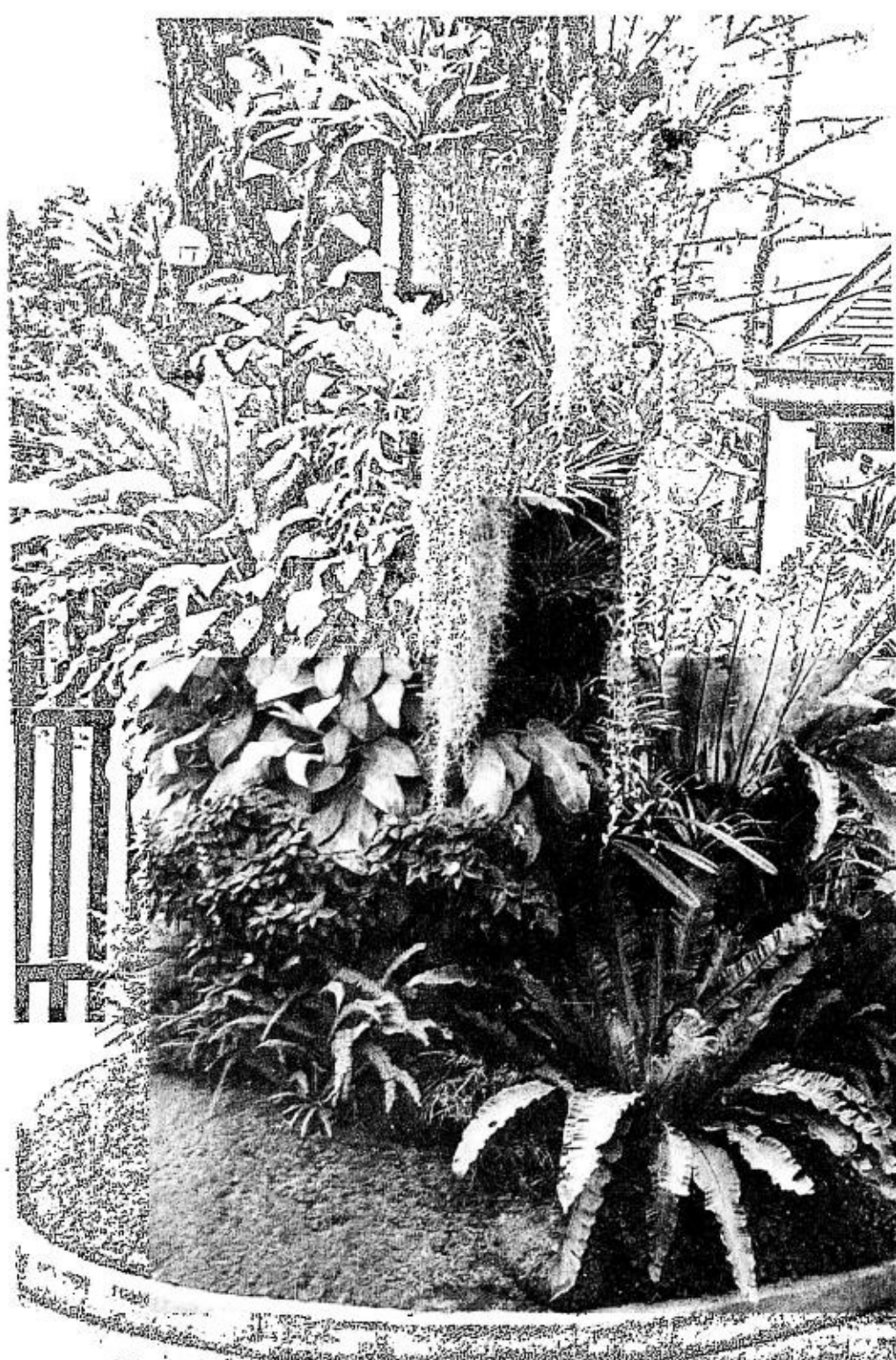
"Misplaced as it is, we couldn't cut down the tree that is reportedly the oldest in the area. It was against ecology and folks in the area believed it was home to spirits," Inos explained.

The young landscape artist is known for his innovative style and insight into the personality of his clients. Water garden is his forte and nature-inspired landscape is his favorite. Some of his works are the rancher's garden in Cagayan and the mountainscape at the back of their own residence.

Inos has cleverly camouflaged the eyesores with the couple's plant collection. The monstrous *sampalok* tree has been pruned and the trunk planted with beautiful ferns and epiphytes (air plants). Around the base of the trunk is a pocket garden filled with ornamen-



FULL sun and water spray bring out true colors of bromeliads. Ara-al rocks and traviezas are used generously in water-garden



WELCOMING garden at the entrance of Reeb property includes air plant Buhok-ni-Ester, a favorite conversation piece in landscape.



THERE'S never a dull moment when couple Michael and Precy Reeb are in their garden. This pocket garden has rare form of Birds-nest Ferns, Manaog-lca-irog and Buhok-ni-Ester.

BONSAI garden add dimension to narrow path close to the house.

tal plants.

Pocket gardens became the landscaper's solution to the irregular contour of the site. Carpets of grass covered the slopes while artful driftwood added height and dimension. Instead of flowering plants, bromeliads were used to give color to the gardens. Borders were placed right up against the houses and filled with blooming spathiphyllum.

Water garden

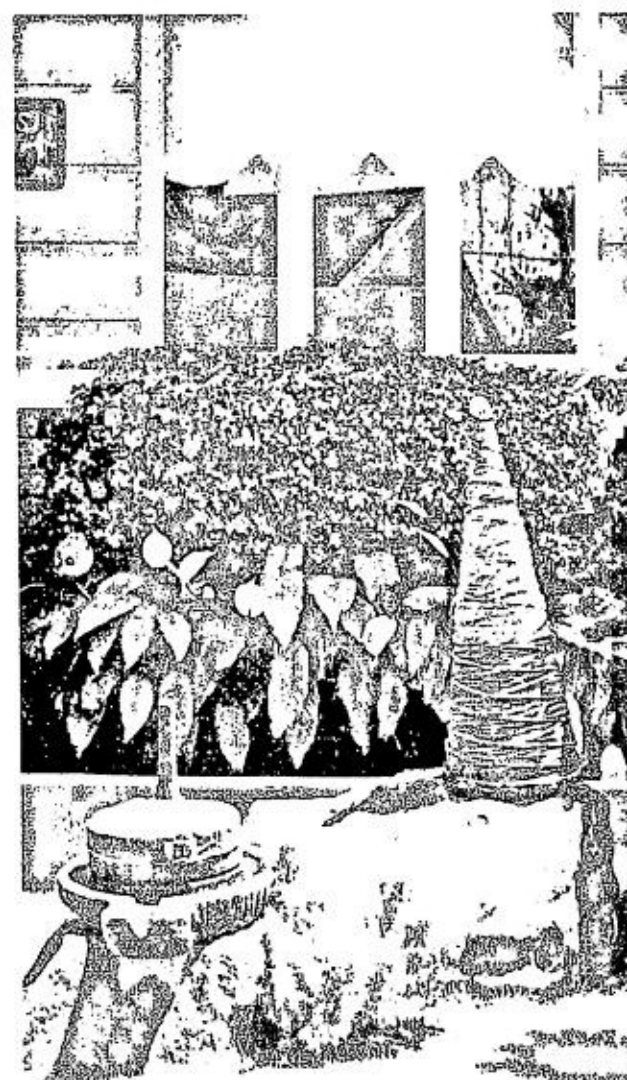
It was obvious the Reeb couple loved the sound of moving water. Their favorite spot, according to Precy, is the pool, which by itself, is a theme garden. On days when Michael is aboard his ship, Precy spends hours sitting by the pool to keep loneliness at bay.

"We love the sound of cascading water against the rocks. It has a soothing effect enhanced by the plants around," she said.

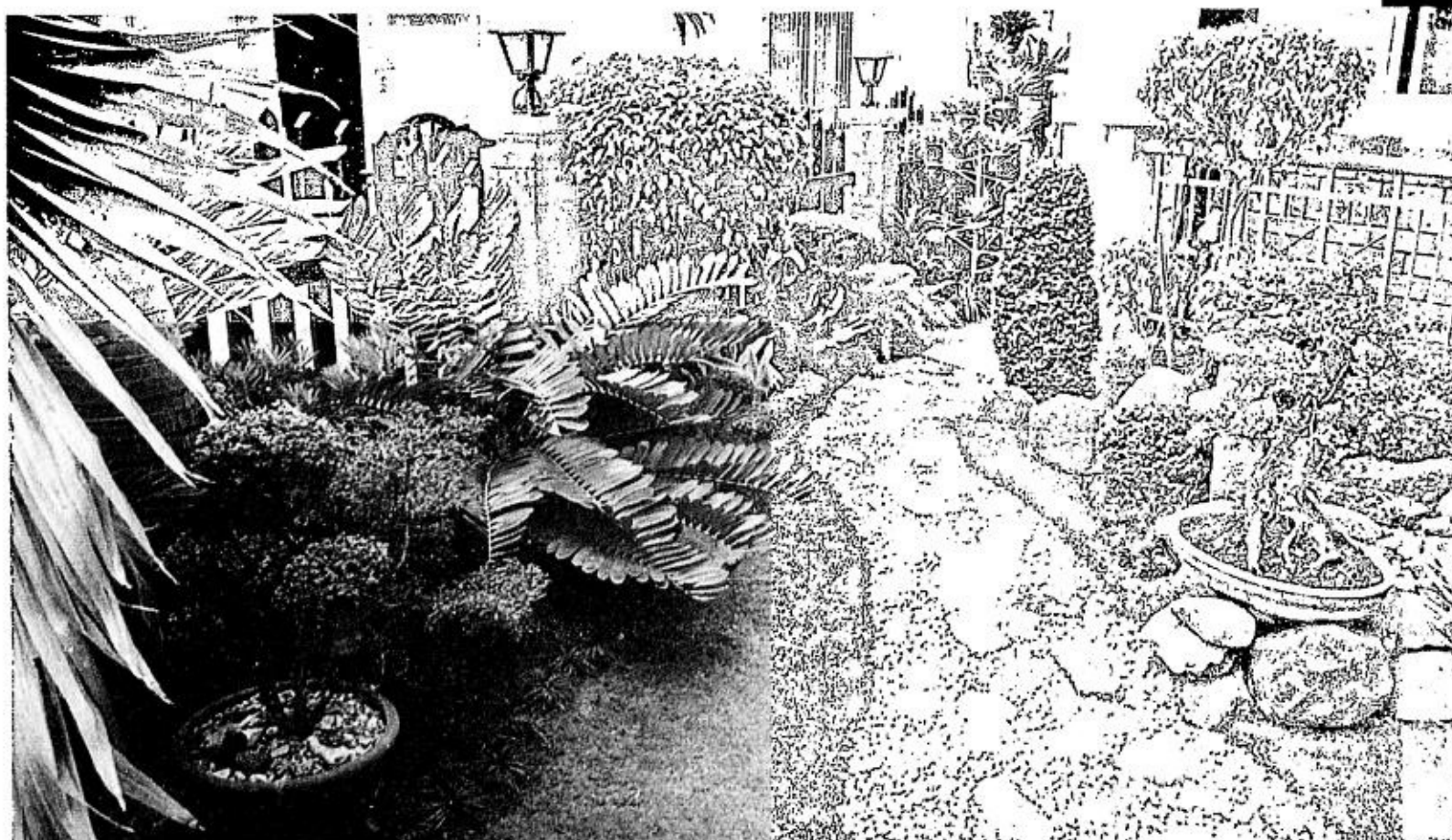
On sunny days, spray from the fountain keeps the temperature down and cleans the air. Precy added that on clear days, the water in the pool mirrored the cloud overhead and the plants around. "The floating water plants give us a feeling of serenity," she said.

Inos erected a wall of *traviezas* (old railroad ties) at the back of the pool to block out the sight of neighborhood houses. Colorful bromeliads were mounted on the wall and ornamental plants filled bare spots. Native *ara-al* stones were placed around the pond to simulate a mountain scene.

A cozy entry garden that looks like a scene from the movies lead to the door of the game house-cum-bar where family members and guests play billiard, darts and card games. To get to the house, one has to go up a garden path that ends in front of the main entrance flanked on both sides by welcoming borders



SPATHIPHYLLUM line border. Rice grinder and rope pool are used for accent.



filled with blo

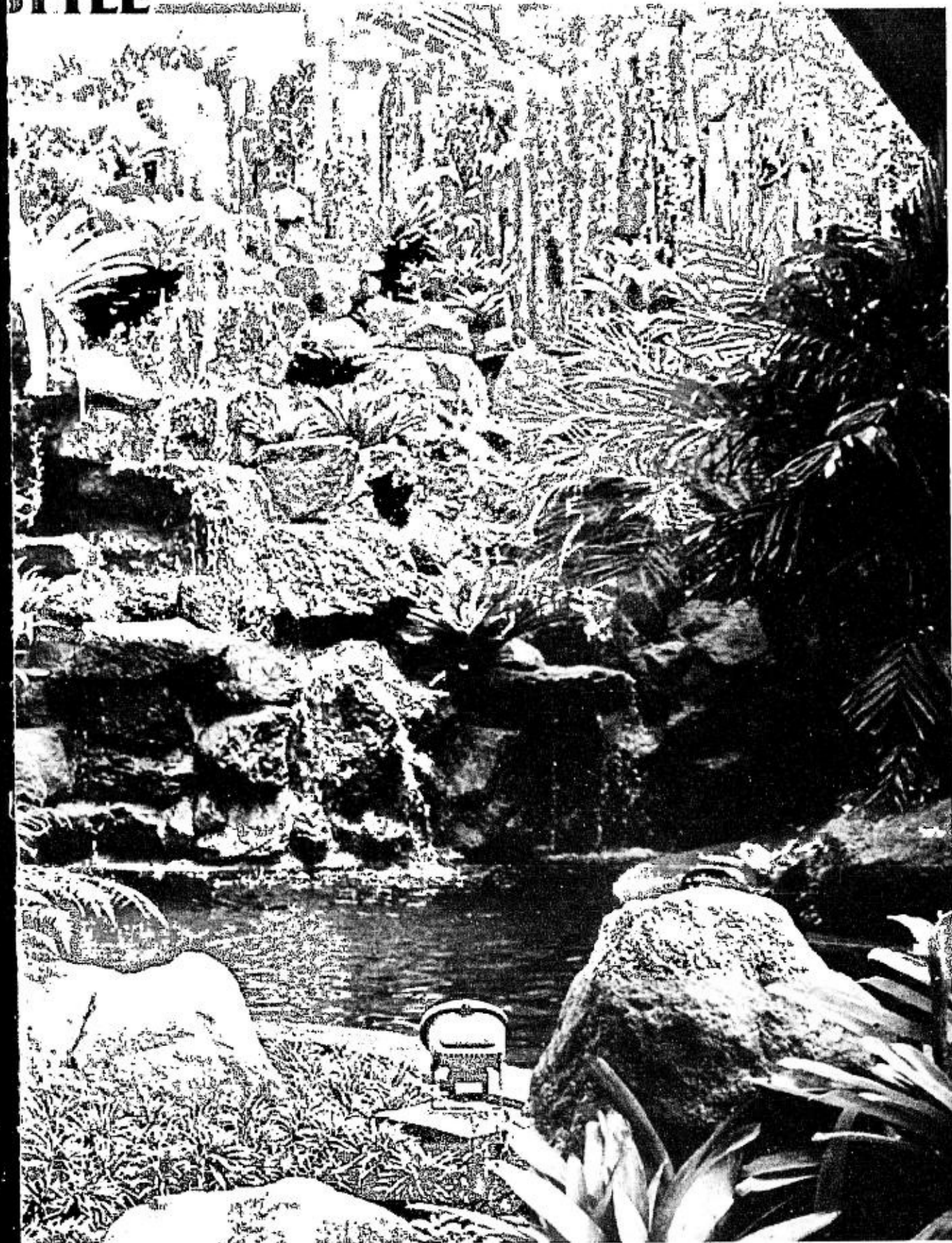
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VIEW of water garden from the game house-cum-bar



WELCOME entry garden leads up to recreation house.

coming spathiphyllum. The feeling of being at home. The plants all over the house give a pocket gardens. A wide glass side of the game room, for input into the water garden. Strategically by Michael Inos, the picture-pretty even at

the theme gardens in difficult subdivision properties," Inos added that homeowners hire professional landscapers. "It takes imagination and are inborn in most of us," he

ed, one could always borrow on books and magazines, Inos

Lorenz Inos, call 0918-2001832 or address letter to compound, Maharlika Highway,

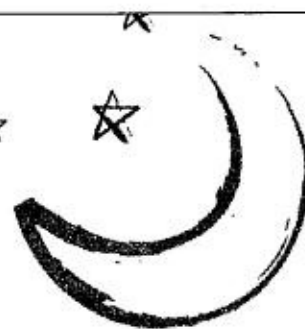
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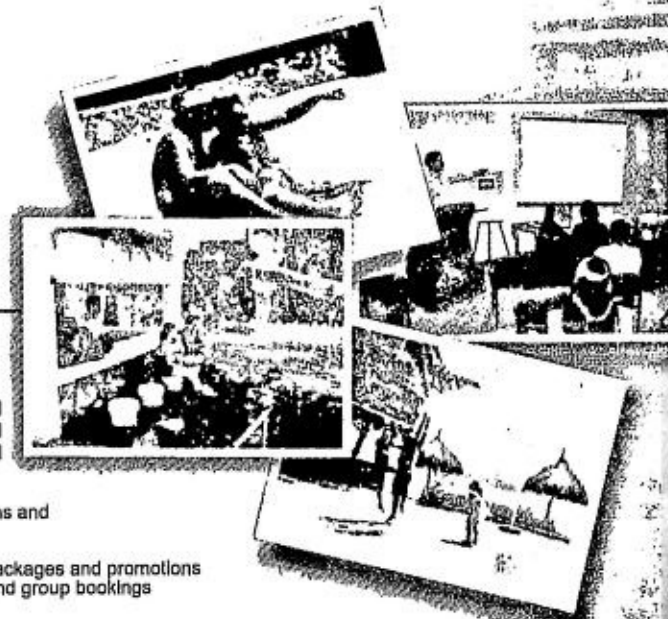
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MONTEREY GRILLED PORK POCKETS

Ingredients:

1 kg. MONTEREY Pork Chop, sliced 1 1/4 inch thick

1 cup sour cream

1/4 tsp. black pepper

1/2 tsp. calamansi juice

2 tbsps. soy sauce

Filling:

1/4 kg. MONTEREY Ground Pork

1/4 cup butter

1/4 cup chopped onions

1/4 cup chopped red & green bell peppers

1/4 cup diced carrots

1/2 cup diced cheese

salt & pepper to taste

Marinade:

2 tbsps. butter

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup water

1/2 tsp. soy sauce

1/2 tsp. pepper

2 tbsps. liquid seasoning

1/2 cup quickmelt cheese, grated

Procedure:

Slice through lean part of pork chops to make a small pocket. Marinate pork chops in sour cream, pepper, calamansi juice and soy sauce. Let stand overnight in the refrigerator.

Filling: Melt butter and sauté onions until transparent. Add ground pork, bell peppers and carrots. Season with salt & pepper. Remove from heat and blend in diced cheese. Stuff pork chops with prepared filling and broil over hot coals until done. (Reserve marinade).

Sauce: Melt butter. Add flour and let foam. Add marinade and water. Cook until thick. Add seasonings and grated cheese. Cook until cheese melts.

To serve, slice pork chops and top with prepared sauce.

For additional recipes, please log on to www.sanmiguelculinary.com

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LIFESTYLE

Power people get new power accessory

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHO says you have to be young, tall and buffed to earn the right to strut down the catwalk?

Certainly not some of the country's corporate decision makers who took time off recently from their killer schedules and gamely modeled the latest clothes from Hugo Boss and Liz Claiborne at the Hotel InterContinental Manila's grand ballroom.

Billed as "The Power Generation Forecast," the event, part of the recent Philippine Fashion Week, was sponsored by Sony Ericsson to promote the P800, its latest and one of its most high-end cell phone units.

"It's more than just a cell phone," said Patrick Laraga, marketing manager of Sony Ericsson. "Put simply, the P800 is a cell phone, PDA (personal digital assistant) and camera rolled into one. It offers its users, particularly busy CEOs and executives, more options to help them in their work."

The P800, which is now available nationwide, retails for a cool P38,000. Indeed, you have to be a super achiever to afford a phone this expensive.

Before the fashion show drew to a close, the likes of Butch Jimenez, Leo Riingen, Jun Cabangon, Sari Yap, Mark Leviste, Jae Hagedorn, Mia Urquico and Anna Periquet, among others, walked down the ramp pretending to

POWER/H2

Corporate bigwigs strut their stuff on fashion runway



WOMEN empowerment

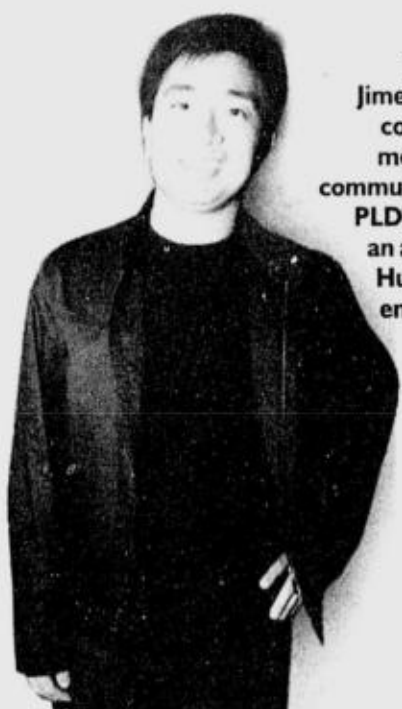


On May 11

Pick a present that shows just

how great it is to have her

as your mother.



BUTCH Jimenez, VP, corporate media and communications, PLDT, wears an all-black Hugo Boss ensemble.



MARK Leviste, VP, Leviste Group of Companies, in Hugo Boss



ANTONIO Pio de Roda, president, Nortel Network, in Hugo Boss



JAE Hagedorn, partner, Hagedorn Group of Companies, in Hugo Boss

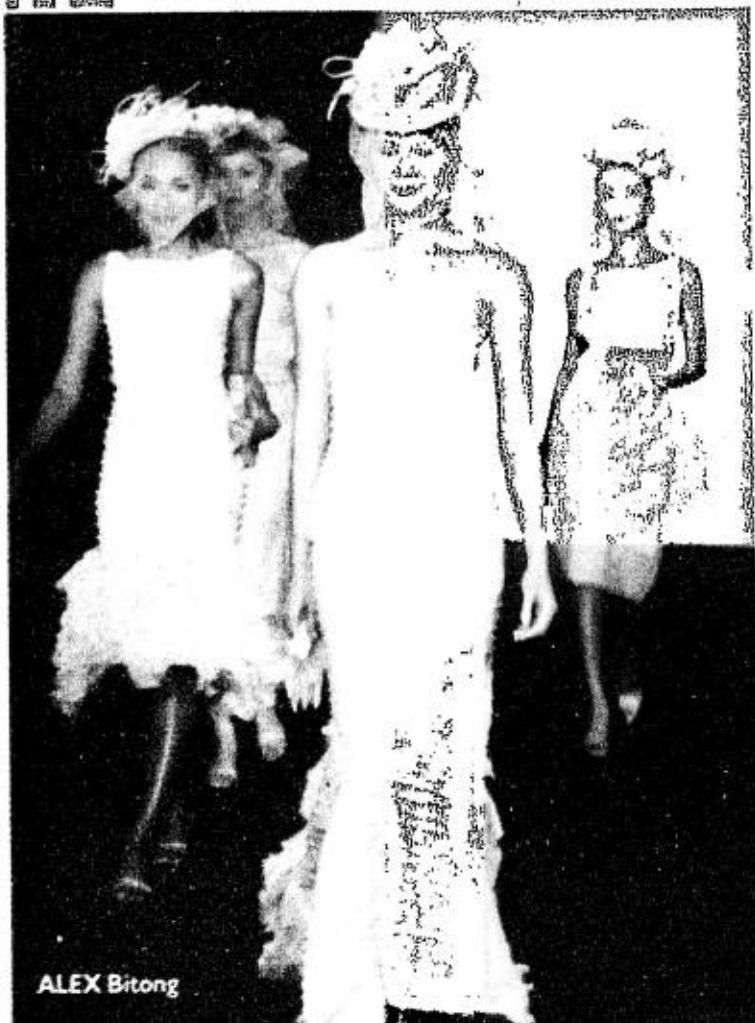


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ALEX Bitong



EDDIE Baddeo



KATRINA Goulbourn

Dramatic one moment, upbeat the next



JEANNE Goulbourn

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

It was pure excitement when 23 of Metro Manila's more popular designers presented their collections at the Grand Allure Collection show at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila during the recent Philippine Fashion Week.

Alex Bitong set the pace with four brides and bridesmaids in tiered strips of frayed cotton-candy pink fabric. Carla Sibal showed dreamy evening gowns in flowing florals while Arielle Agasang displayed his mettle in fully beaded floor-length coats with hot pants, beaded bras and knee-high boots.

Lito Perez chose to make a "peace/love" statement in appliquéd pants while Fanny Serrano showed off checked suits and nappy scarves.

Stark-white resort wear in gossamer fabric came from Marden Iglesias. JM Goulbourn went for cool cottons with floral appliques and flounces from her ready-to-wear line. Goulbourn's daughter, Katrina, was more dramatic with her Oriental-inspired collection, showing a bridegroom in a luxurious silk robe and his bride in a mini with cowl neckline and kimono sleeves.

Ole Morabe impressed the audience with structured Chinese lantern-like pleated skirts. Pepsi Herrera's collection consisted of skin-baring beaded and sequined minis and tops, with long, long-lashed models to boot.

Eddie Baddeo brought the house down with a lone model in beaded anti-SARS mask and floor-length fiber-filled coat. Underneath was a wrap mini and thigh-high boots.

Top Manila designers rework standards and motifs into sports fashion and emerge as Olympic medalists

Sportswear shines

An unexpected winner was sportswear Adidas, which launched its Heritage Collection. A third of the designers chose to work the Adidas apparel and footwear into their designs, further extending the much-vaunted versatility of sportswear.

Ready-to-wear designer Anthony Nocom mixed Adidas tees and sneakers in his sleek menswear. Edgar Madamba and Lyle Ibañez went sexy, fusing Adidas tees and belted coats with floweret-appliquéd skirts for Madamba and draped minis for Ibañez. Gerry Katigbak took it further with a rugby shirt and tassel

mini against fishnet stockings.

Edgar San Diego's take consisted of ethnic-print skirt, tribal neckpiece, armband and cuff paired with Adidas sweater.

It was evening glamour for the sports brand when Edwin Tan blended his ankle-length fully sequined skirt with a velour track sweater.

A rugby shirt became elegant with Frederick Peralta's crinolined check skirt accented with a thick sash.

A show that would have been otherwise too overwhelming, visually and quantity-wise, came loaded but light because it was briskly and cohesively directed.



MARDEN Iglesias



ARIELLE Agasang



PEPSI Herrera

Power people get new power accessory



ANNA Periquet, president, Aurelio Periquet, Jr. Foundation and Anna Home Collection Inc., in Liz Claiborne



MIA Unquico, president, MICO, in Liz Claiborne



GINA Alfonso, president, Cartwheel Foundation, in Liz Claiborne

From page H1

be texting and talking using the P800. It was a deliberate move to get "real people" to model the clothes as well as the phone.

"Professional models may be taller, younger and slimmer than these decision makers," says Laraga, "but we want to put P800 in the hands of people who will truly appreciate it. The move makes for a stronger statement since these are the very people for whom the unit has been designed."

The indefatigable Joey Espino, top honcho



LEO Riingen, president and CEO of Informatics Philippines, and INQUIRER's Celine Madamba, corporate relations manager, with their trusty P800s.



BIG bosses all in a row in their impeccable suits by who else?

of Runway Productions and CalCarrie's Philippines, and brother Audie had less than two weeks to convince the reluctant—well, at least some of them probably—models to tread the fashion boards.

And they didn't disappoint. Some like Jimenez, vice president for corporate media and communications of the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone company; and Hagedorn, partner, Hagedorn Group of Companies, hammed it up and went over the top, exaggerating the movements and gyrations of

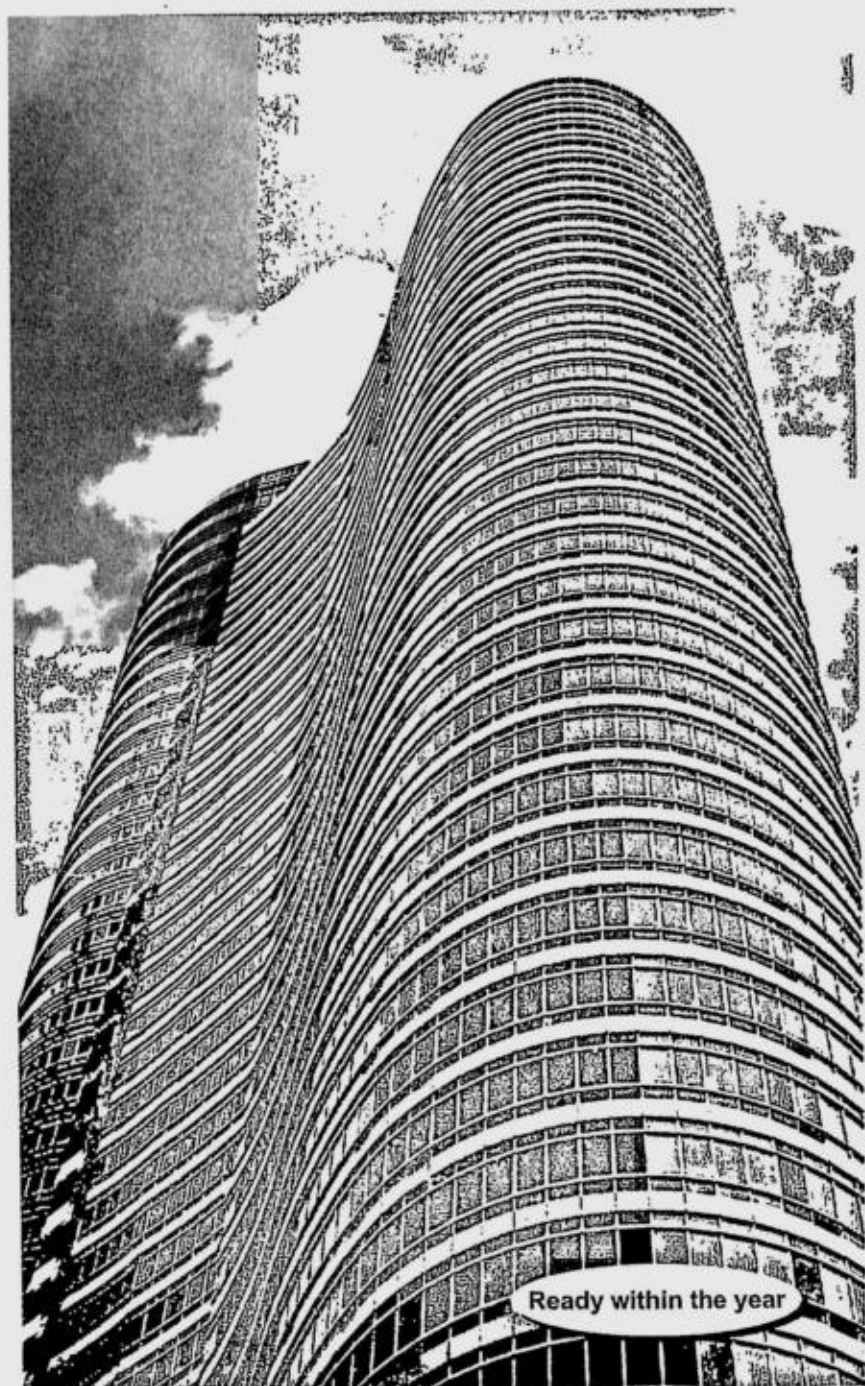
professional models.

The women moved with poise and confidence, befitting their stature. Cheers and applause from their respective supporters nearly drowned out the music.

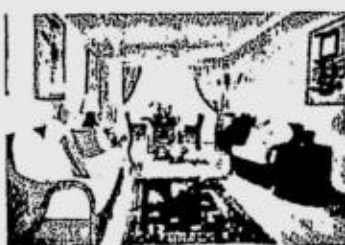
If anything, the part-time models and full-time troubleshooters let their hair down as they assumed a new, more glamorous role if only for one night.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

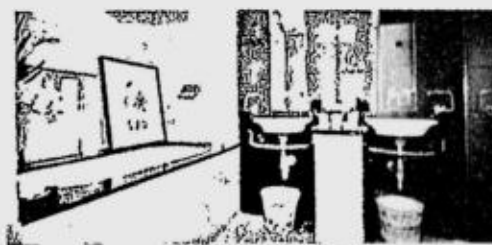
WILLY Lim Quason, owner, Gloria Maris, in Hugo Boss



Ready within the year



Two-Bedroom Unit Living Room



Two-Bedroom Unit Master's Toilet and Bath



One-Bedroom Unit Master's Bedroom

It doesn't just build innovative high-rise residential condominiums, it creates pieces of art - structures definitely worth looking up to, both literally and figuratively. Philippine Townships, Inc. (Philtown), the property development subsidiary of one of the country's food giants, RFM Corporation, proudly presents the two newest landmarks at the Bonifacio Global City, the country's emerging premier location. The One McKinley Place and Fairways Tower give new shape not only to luxury living but to modern urban architecture as well.

At the heart of the Bonifacio Global City, One McKinley Place is the epitome of style and absolute grace. Its appeal strikes anybody who takes even the slightest glance at its imposing structure. One can't help but be captivated by the aura it exudes - that of taste and undeniable grandeur.

One McKinley Place is clearly a masterpiece in its class. A 43-storey two-tower structure merged into one by a sophisticated glass curtain wall. It is a proud creation of no less than the famed Hellmuth Obata Kassabaum (HOK) of Hong Kong and the country's architectural authority, Roger Villarosa Architects.

While the structure is an attraction on its own, the prestigious address of One McKinley Place makes it all the more a prime catch. Situated at the west of Forbes Park on the southwest edge of the new Bonifacio Global City, One McKinley Place is only a few minutes' drive from Manila's central business districts, shopping centers and even the airport. It is in the midst of a clean and green environment, and gives way to a splendid view of Manila Golf, Antipolo Hills, Laguna Lake and the Makati skyline.

One McKinley Place is everything luxury living can offer. From its state-of-the-art interiors to its modern amenities...there's little left to ask for.



Imagine a lifestyle of luxury and comfort at your fingertips. Indulge in the enticing, spacious swimming pool shaped like a lagoon. Invigorate your spirits at the recreational lounge. Work out at the world-class lifestyle and fitness center. Let the kids run to their hearts' content in the playground. Give your guests a warm welcome at the elegant function rooms.

Of course, your ease and convenience are already a given. One McKinley Place has six high-speed elevators, ready to bring you where you want to be practically in an instant. A fully landscaped and exclusive driveway, going to four levels of basement parking, makes even your driving a pleasant experience. Privacy? Don't even consider it an issue. One McKinley Place occupies an entire block, with a podium standing to guard the exclusivity of the towers. Plus, a private courtyard entrance solely for residents.

Take your pick from a variety of high-end accommodation configurations, ranging from 4 to 8 units per storey. What's more, an Early Move-in Package will let you move in while you pay the downpayment.

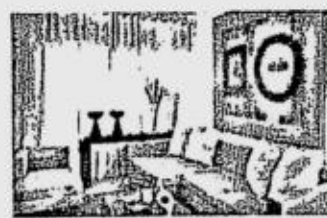
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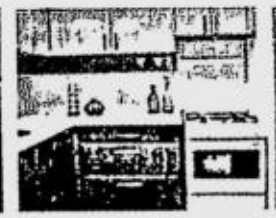
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Two-Bedroom Unit Living Room



Two-Bedroom Unit Master's Bedroom



One-Bedroom Unit Kitchen



Two-Bedroom Unit Master's Toilet and Bath

An architectural wonder in wood, glass and concrete, the Fairways Tower can't help but stand out with its unique wood-laden exterior inspired by nature.

Conceived by the world-renowned design firm Edmonds International Ltd. and leading Filipino architect Roger Villarosa, the Fairways Tower is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, nestled at the most prestigious crest of the Bonifacio Global City.

Architect Roger Villarosa describes the Fairways Tower structure as one with an orientation that follows the axis of the eastern edge of the Manila Golf fairways, takes advantage of the nice and interesting views of the golf link, the Forbes Park landscape, the skylines of the Makati and Bonifacio Global cities and the world-famous Manila Bay.

The facade of the Fairways Tower is simply beautiful in its warmth and elegance... an image that is hard to forget.

Most of all, the 28-storey structural gem is easily the fulfillment of the urban dweller's dream of a privileged

lifestyle that is a mix of comfort, security and convenience. The Fairways Tower is at the crossroads of the "avenues of the elite" - the McKinley Road and the fast-emerging address of the rich and famous, the Emilio Jacinto Road of Bonifacio Global City.

This prime address doesn't only spell power and prestige, but also convenience. There's direct and easy access to Manila's central business districts such as Makati and Ortigas. The leading business establishments, world-class shopping centers, best educational institutions and latest entertainment hubs are also just a stone's throw away.

World-class interiors and amenities complement the stunning exterior of the Fairways Tower. The lobby has a 6-meter high ceiling and space that offers an ambience similar to that of the classically luxurious New York residential condominium towers. The Fairways Tower residential suites exude the warmth and modern efficiency of today's well-planned interior architecture. At the penthouse are the swimming pools, fitness gym, play area, function rooms and viewing terraces.

For as low as P12,763 a month, you can get a taste of a whole new lifestyle. A home that lets you feel the breeze from the greens, and gives you and your family the best of leisure, business and learning.

As Philtown sets a new standard for high-rise residential condominium living - a perfect blend of beauty, style and comfort -- the Manila urban dweller is sure to get a whole new experience that will fulfill the yearnings of both body and spirit.



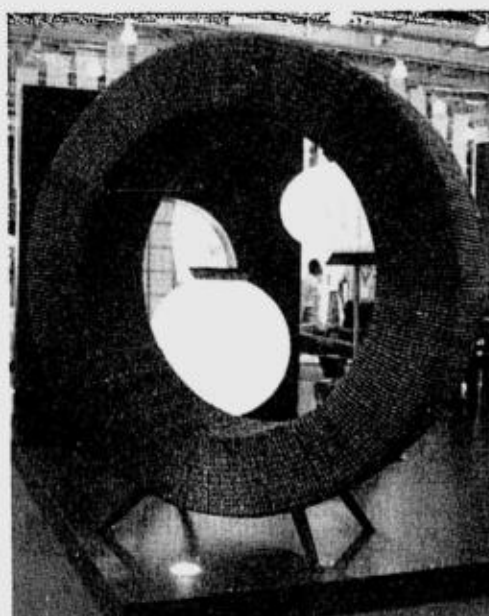
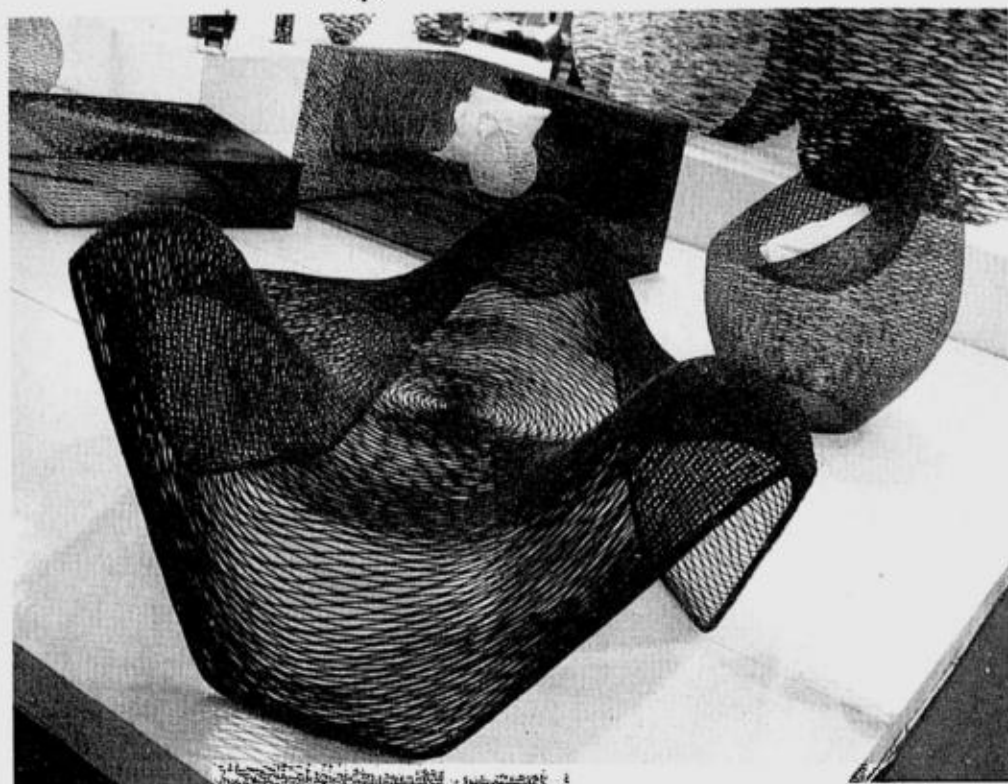
For inquiries please call:
One McKinley Place: 830-0454
Fairways Tower: 830-0457 / 830-0456

Visit The One McKinley Place and Fairways Tower model units now!

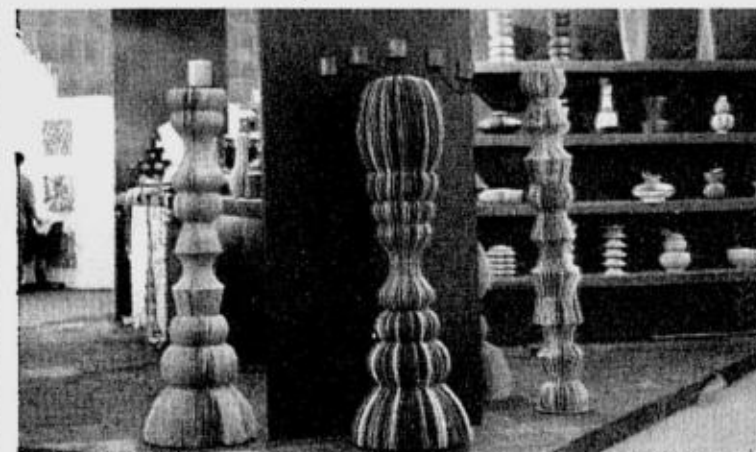
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LOCSIN International's "O" chair (above) and wire chair designed by Ann Pamintuan for Gilded Expressions (left)



PAPER candelabra designed by Tes Pasola for Mind Masters

SARS scare didn't stop Citem

LAST Sunday I did one brave thing: I ventured into a big crowd at the World Trade Center, and found myself quite comfortable with the paranoia.

In this day of killer microbes, it seems the best lifestyle accessory you can have is paranoia. The person next to you, any surface you touch, the air you breathe, even the cash that comes your way—they're all suspect. But then, as they say, someone's got to do the job. So the trick to master is how to keep paranoia to a healthy degree.

Cesar Gaupo, Tonichi Nocum and Citem head Fely Tan-Co talked me into checking out the 2003 Manila FAME International, which, now on its 20th year, has become a byword in the world market for Philippine furniture, home furnishings and accents, and fashion accessories.

I saw the beginnings of FAME in the '80s, when Citem (Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions), under Mina Gabor and then Eli Pinto, battled great odds to sell Philippine design and craftsmanship to an unbelieving world market. Of course, the odds are still great, but FAME has come a long way, becoming almost a brand name in the world market for home stuff.

So no matter the "SARS ambience," I thought a FAME update was worth it. Gaupo, the designer of the fashion brand Shanghai Tang, has been back from Hong Kong for the past two weeks (so safe), and Nocum has been back from Shanghai for the same length of time (again, safe), where he and the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines designers staged a fashion show as part of "Ties that Bind," the Philippine trade promotion of Citem and the Garments Textile and Export Board in China.

Where crowds are concerned, you can say that Gaupo and Nocum are, by now, battle-hardened.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan



No killer virus could keep the crowd from enjoying the famed exhibit of Filipino furniture and home accessories

Medical precautions at the WTC entrance seemed adequate. Health and security staff handed out health forms to be filled up. The temperature of guests from SARS-infected countries was taken. That meant Gaupo, who graciously surrendered his ear to the thermometer, but balked somewhat when a television crew swarmed around him to shoot the news moment. Despite a fresh haircut Gaupo didn't think his left ear deserved national ex-

posure. (I begged to disagree.)

At the entrance, Citem also gave out health bags containing a bottle of alcohol, SARS primer, mask, facial tissues and surgical gloves. Indeed the Department of Trade and Industry was out to show foreign buyers and visitors that the Philippines could be efficient in protecting people's health.

This year's FAME drew 600 buyers from the world over, especially the United States. Of course, that was down from the average of 2,000. Given the SARS scare, that was, as Citem's deputy executive director (operations group) Art Dimaano said, a "respectable" turnout. It was also much better than the just-concluded Canton Fair, which drew only 300 instead of the expected 13,000.

One needed at least a day to appreciate the hundreds of booths set up by the country's home-product manufacturers and designers. Always, a walkabout in such a fair leaves you feeling proud of the Filipino design aesthetics. Our output gets better each year.

The best thing Citem ever did was to institutionalize the collaboration between designers (Filipino and foreign) and manufacturers.

SARS/13

Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a



The naked truth!

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Butterfly sanctuary is new addition to John Hay's attractions

DELICATE "petals" were tossed up in the air, but instead of falling to the ground, they fluttered away. But then "petals" were butterflies released by the hundreds to mark the opening recently of the Butterfly Sanctuary at Camp John Hay (CJH), Baguio City.

The sanctuary's inauguration coincided with that of the Art Park, located at the end of the Eco-Trail that passes through a forest of Benguet pines, all maintained by CJH to enhance the place's claim as a choice ecotourism destination.

Overseeing the multifaceted project is Jill Cortes, assistant vice president for corporate communications. The Butterfly Sanctuary, she says, will be a permanent attraction, open the whole year round.

On the other hand, the Art Park, located right in front of the CJH's communication office, will be a seasonal offering, featuring works by artists and artisans, mostly from the Cordilleras, like Narda Capuyan and her looms and furniture, foot and mouth and other artists and wood carvers from the region.

Some of the exhibits are housed in authentic Ifugao and Igorot huts. Both sanctuary and park complement another CJH activity, the Scout Hill Ball Field Country Fair, which goes on until June.

Butterfly Sanctuary

The sanctuary concept was developed by Edmond (Macky) Maceda, freelance environmental consultant who is at present connected with the Fil-Estate Group. He worked on the basis of the

SEEING GREEN

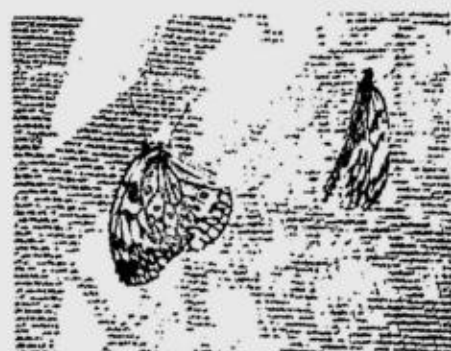


Doris Gaskell Nuyda

CJH idea that butterflies would somehow set the tone of biodiversity in the area.

Maceda did extensive research on butterfly house operations throughout Luzon, and decided to start on a 500-sq-m area known, when the Americans still ran the camp, as the Little Mermaid Garden. It took him six months to plan and design the sanctuary and another four months to get the necessary documents from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Protected Areas and Wild Life Bureau.

Already, the garden is in full bloom,



NEWLY hatched hestias cling to net cover of sanctuary.

Camp John Hay wants butterflies to set the tone of biodiversity in the area

mostly with food plants for the butterflies and since, Maceda says, this is mating time for them, they can be seen flitting merrily all over the place.

Maceda is starting with seven species of butterflies, which include swallowtails and birdwings. He is helped in the breeding operations by an experienced breeder, Dari, who worked with other lepidopterists (butterfly/moth experts) before.

Maceda is full of plans for the sanctuary. He intends, as soon as possible, to expand it and build a taller, wider net cover to allow the butterflies to flit and soar like they do in the wild. The sanctuary would be a first step, he said, in educating young people on the environment. He also intends to introduce the butterfly farming aspect of the project to boost the butterfly population of Baguio, and the Cordilleras in general.

As a matter of fact, he hopes to set up a butterfly demonstration farm at the DENR premises in Quezon City, to heighten public awareness on the role of butterflies in ecosystems.



PUPAE are hung on strings to allow easy hatching (note emerging wings from some of them).

The possibility of eventually including butterflies from other regions of the Philippines is never far from Maceda's mind, as such expansions would turn the sanctuary into a depository of representative lepidoptera of the country, a first of its kind.

While one of the aims of the sanctuary, said Maceda, was to educate people on the value and beauty of butterflies, it would also try to transfer to the barangay level the technology for breeding butterflies. Pupae could be sold, which, incidentally, would provide food plants and initial equipment, like cages, for caterpillars.

Maceda hoped this would inspire to go into arts and crafts using butterfly themes and motifs.

For the lowland visitor, the place envisioned by CJH's Cortes and Maceda could serve as foil to the overcrowded sections of Baguio City. Old-timers who remember the Baguio of old and lament its loss, can now enjoy a part of the city that comes close to that past and even enhances it. As for the younger generation, here's another reason to go up to Baguio any time of the year.

E-mail author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Celebrations times four



LEE Robin Salazar and Rachel Alejandro at Olive



DIETHER Ocampo and Christine San Diego at Flute

THE TRENDY, fashionable Flute owned by partners Christine San Diego, Gemma Estrella and Ralph Joseph celebrated its second anniversary with an eclectic crowd of artists, shakers, hunks and babes. It was also Christine's birthday and guests included her beau, Morten Brenelhoej from Denmark, Diether Ocampo, DJ Nate and MTV-turning-movie director Cholo Laurel.

At the residence of Guia Gomez in San Juan, her son, Mayor JV Ejercito, hosted a birthday dinner for girlfriend April Ross Perez, the reigning Miss Philippines Earth. The food was fabulous with tempura ebi, buttered gindara and pasta with clam sauce. We were also treated to a show of intelligent canines and a collection of colorful Japanese carp.

Stage actor Lee Robin Salazar partied at Olive in Makati. It was also his *despedida*. He left for New York a week ago to pursue acting classes and other opportunities in the Big Apple. Rachel Alejandro, Lucky Manzano and a slew of party animals joined the fun.

It was an animal scene, literally, on balikbayan Reuel Rudelas' natal day. A litter of cute, black and white puppies were presented to him as gifts. His

TEESAW

Raul Teehankeo

Sunset View suite was filled with the sounds of music, barking dogs and merry-makers led by Pitoy Moreno, Gerry Katigbak and future, professional basketball players.



JV Ejercito and April Ross Perez



REUEL Rudelas with his puppy

Self-enhancement seminars for young moms

RUSTAN's Department Store invites expectant and young mothers to "Nurturing Moments," a series of well-being and self-enhancement seminars, on May 3 at Rustan's Shangri-La, and May 10 at Rustans Makati. Call 780-9898 or (0918) 930-0313.

ANNIVERSARY. Mary Kay Inc. is celebrating its third anniversary on May 10, 1-3 p.m. at the Palawan Room of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The event will be highlighted by the awarding of "Woman with a Heart 2." Registration starts at 8 a.m. Call 893-4855 local 141.

PARTY. Viva! Mineral Water presents a series of lifestyle and fashion techno-pop gigs dubbed as "Vivalicious: The Shape and Sound of Summer." The series will kick off on May 9, 6 p.m. at Glorietta 4 park. Partygoers can also look forward to more parties at Alabang Town Center on May 16, Eastwood City Walk May 30, and The Village in Cebu June 13. Call 413-6436 or 37.

FORUM. Anlene Hi-Calcium Milk and the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. will hold a lay forum titled "Osteoporosis o Arthritis: Meron K B?" on May 3 at Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center, Provincial Capitol, Malolos, Bulacan. Call 682-2599/95 or toll free number 1-800-1-888-7799.

DINNER PARTY. The Jardeli Club of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, will celebrate its 71st anniversary with a dinner-dance tonight at the Grand Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. The *rigodon de honor* will be headed by this year's president, engineer Fil Santos, and Dr. Marissa Duque Soriano, Rep. Raul and Julieta Villareal and past presidents of the club.

WORKSHOP. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. is holding a two-day seminar-workshop on Effective Records Management for Local Government Units on May 5-6 at Instructional Media Center, University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City. Call 927-9858.

SEMINAR. The Professional Librarians' Review Center is holding a two-day seminar-workshop on "Basic Cataloging Skills, the AACR2R and MARC Format," May 7-8, at Instructional Media Center, University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City. Call 927-9858.

SUMMER FUN. Crush Gear finds a venue in Enchanted Kingdom for its summer pocket tournaments. The series continues on May 4 and 11 at Spaceport, 2 p.m. Call 830-2111 to 16 or 843-6073 to 78 or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

DISCOUNT. Dr. Jean de Castro's dental clinic is offering a 10-percent discount on the opening of her clinic at its new location at Sunshine Boule-



NOANNE B. Manalo, one of Asiana Airlines' 36 Filipina flight attendants, was recognized as Cabin Crew of the Year 2002, besting other airline crew from around the world. Asiana Airlines president and COO Chan Bup Park awarded Manalo in company celebrations in Seoul.

vard Plaza, 2/F Unit 8, 1328 Quezon Ave. corner Scout Santiago, QC. This promo is ongoing until May 31. Call 373-8614.

REUNION. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a grand reunion at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, on May 24 and 25. Visit FPPF at 7th/F, Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati. The foundation will also hold basic and advanced photo seminars starting June 1 at Yslas Restaurant, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

TRAINING. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists will conduct a training workshop on "Technical Skills for E-Learning Environment" on May 28-30 at Blue Palm Resort in Calamba, Laguna. Call Lynn 724-1994, Lily 929-2180, Joven 527-9672, Medy 897-8808 local 329/330 or Beth 932-1295.

SALE. Quadro, now known as Q Club London, holds its "Sale Away Promo" this month. Customers can get up to 70-percent discount on selected Quadro items in leading department stores nationwide.

SPECIAL RATE. Abenson is offering its customers a payment scheme that will make best-value appliances more affordable. Aside from cash and credit card, the company has "hulugan lay-away plan" and financing for payment options. Abenson gives interest rates lower than other financing offers. Customers can also avail of 5-7.5-percent discounts on monthly fee paid before due date. Payments range from three to 36 months.

HOTEL PROMO. Subic International Hotel has a summer promo of P2,500 for an overnight stay. Package includes: buffet, breakfast and entrance to the beach. Children 12 years old and below, sharing beds with parents, are free of charge. Optional Ocean Adventure Show and Duty Free Shopping can be arranged. Call 243-2222 to 32 or e-mail sales@subichotel.com.

Will seminar help her friend?

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have a close friend with three grown-up children. She has been having lunch and *merienda* with a former suitor, supposedly for business reasons.

I have cautioned her about the propriety of those meetings (and even suggested that they meet) in her office, but she said the stature of her former suitor made it inappropriate for him to go to her modest office.

So they go to expensive restaurants and private clubs. She claims that their renewed friendship is aboveboard (and) their spouses know about the meetings.

If you think Archie and his wife benefited from attending a Marriage Encounter seminar, perhaps my friend and her husband (will also find it helpful).

However, before I urge her to drag her husband to one, can you (explain) how a Marriage Encounter can help couples? How does it differ from spiritual retreats and private counseling? Are revelations of secrets to spouses imperative in such seminars?

NONA

The Marriage Encounter (ME) Weekend Seminar gives couples an opportunity to reactivate, improve and grow in their communication. It offers a comfortable setting where couples can get away from everyday

LIVE AND LET LIVE



Tita Dulce

routine and explore their relationship.

It is not a spiritual retreat in the traditional sense because the main focus is on giving couples the opportunity to examine their lives together, their weaknesses and strong points, their hopes and dreams, their joys and frustrations, disappointments and hurts, their attitude toward each other and their families.

ME is for any couple who desires a richer, fuller marriage. Every marriage can be improved; even the best marriages can find meaning and deepened joys.

Sessions are held from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. A priest and a married couple make a presentation or informal talk at each session to inspire others, to make them aware of their own feelings about various aspects of their marriage.

The second step—expressing those feelings to each other—is achieved through a technique taught during the weekend, dialogue. Sessions between couples are always conducted privately, away from the group. The weekend is orderly, structured to pre-

sent a new way of communication to couples in interesting and understandable fashion.

What ME is not: It is not a marriage clinic, a sensitivity group nor a counseling seminar. Couples do not disclose their problems to the group or lead couples in discussion or criticism. It is not a group-oriented weekend.

Couples are encouraged to be open and to trust each other. Confessional "subjects" are recommended to be revealed only to the priest during reconciliation service. As you know, there is the secrecy of confession.

Openness has to be developed and improved by the couple after the ME Weekend. Spouses with secrets may wake up and realize they should stop activities, which are not proper.

The Kairos ME Community conducts ME Weekend Seminars in Antipolo City. The next weekend will be May 16-18 at the Pacem Seminary, 4 Aquarius St., Sra. de la Paz Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, near the Good Shepherd Spiritual Center, Antipolo City.

For more information, readers can contact Roy and Malee San Buenaventura at 644-5081 or 911-3701 local 7365, or (0918) 930-2060, (0920) 901-3639, or e-mail royab@kairoscenter.com.

E-mail titudulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, MCPO 1263 Makati City

Workshop on plant arts

IKENOBO Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla will conduct a series of seminar workshops on various plant arts on May 2-4.

The seminar will tackle a mini waterfall Zen garden, a type of plant art designed for tranquility and meditation. On May 16-18, it will be on bonsai culture, the art of dwarfing trees.

For those who are interested in flower arrangement as a hobby and for business as well, the seminar will include Ikebana, Western style or mass arrangement, free styles, buffet centerpieces, corsage, bridal

bouquet, garland making and other wedding ensembles. Flower shop operations will also be discussed. The five-day workshop will be on May 28-June 1. Dish-gardening and terrarium-making is on June 8.

All seminars with hands-on will be held every afternoon, 1-6 p.m. at Mett's Plant Arts King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. All materials and snacks will be provided.

Call Rhoda Culango of Mett's Plant Arts at 939-4593 to register.

SARS scare didn't stop Citem

From page 11

This upgraded the design to world-class caliber and further strengthened the Filipino tradition of craftsmanship.

This year yielded diversity in design directions, range of materials and levels of craftsmanship. If there's an indication of how confident our feel for world market is, it must be that this year's yield showed restraint in innovation. The work was more polished, the lines simpler and streamlined, yet the technology was at optimum level. We seem to have found our bearings.

The indigenous bamboo, rattan, abaca, coconut, even seagrass, were given various finish and applications. Wicker is wicker, but this time it was given geometric or organic shapes, and interesting uses. Retained from last year's line was a wicker chair with a base serving as bookshelf, for instance.

Shapes were fluid yet starkly defined, such as the "O" chair of Locsin International, which produced interestingly geometric furniture.

As expected, the visual identity of the design stalwarts of Movement 8 (the group of home furniture/fixture designers that has made a name in international fairs) stood out. Ann Pamintuan (Gilded Expressions) tweaked her trademark wire-art furniture by introducing the "threesome chair" and the lasso collection. Milo Naval has the cubic sofa bed. Tes Pasola has giant paper candelabras, carried over from her designs for the Bohol art show at the Metropolitan Museum. Her tour of the province's centuries-old churches inspired her to create the paper candelabras.

We liked the accordion bags designed by Reimon Gutierrez for Mugna Bisaya. Made of coco sheets, the bag, like an accordion, can expand into a box so big you could put your flat in it, with your man thrown in (I'm exaggerating).

Then there were bamboo slats bleached to a fine finish, for cabinets, coffee tables, chairs. There were sculpted metal accessories (mirror frames, candelabras, shelves), in Aztec-inspired designs, from Enpekei International Inc. Al Caronan had his resin planters.

The Cebu manufacturers expectedly dominated the fashion accessories. The most interesting were the bags from Jim Castler International Inc. made of coco shell cubes on which were imprinted Chinese-art images. The hip Orientalia bags should give Vivienne Tam a run for her money.

We also loved the hanging lamps made of capiz shells painted with Chinese imagery in red. They were beautiful when lit.

The past 20 years brought FAME through various phases and learning curves in the market. Our designers and manufacturers aren't really competing head-on with China, which is the mecca of mass production. Our own little, but lucrative, corner in the sky is the specially crafted and cutting-edge-design line. As Citem's Lourdes Ilusorio said, with SARS being the great leveler of huge and small countries, "We're quite blessed."

By that we didn't mean to sound hokey, but just a bit boastful about the Filipino talent.

Scarce, not SARS

Speaking of socials and crowds, the Pinoy still hasn't given up the "beso-beso." People still air-kiss each other but only, of course, after ascertaining quite demurely that one hasn't just been to China, Hong Kong or Singapore.

Exhibit on cacti and succulents

SUCCULENTS are plants with the ability to hold and store water in their bodies.

All members of the Cactaceae family are considered succulents, but not all succulents can be called cacti. This is because there are succulent types in other families such as the Euphorbiaceae, Aizoaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Compositae, etc.

Cacti are characterized by their cushion-like areoles on the plant's body, which is equivalent to the internodes of other plants.

Aside from their aesthetic value, some serve as food, others as medicine and beauty aids.

Dr. Chen, founder of E-Excel Products, says that the cactus contains 10,000 phytochemicals more than other fruits and vegetables. It was also discovered that those who regularly take cactus juice or salad in their diets are less prone to diabetes.

Tom Selleck, a well-known Hollywood actor, proved the effectiveness of the succulent plants when his house was also spared from the monstrous blaze. It was another testament that proved the qualities of succulent plants as a fire repellent.

In the Philippines, collecting cacti and succulents is becoming more and more popular.

Cora Purificacion of Alfonso, Cavite, and her daughter Anna Ruth P. Conde, has a vast and interesting collection of cacti and succulents, most of them rare. But Purificacion says they are not hard to grow.

Purificacion explains that most cacti and many succulents are heat-resistant and since they can store water in their bodies, can survive long without or little water. They thrive on sandy or rocky soil and need little care.

An exhibit called Cacti and Succulents, A Summer Special, is ongoing at SM City North Edsa in QC and Purificacion Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. main outlet at the Manila Seedling Bank compound on Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, QC, until May 31. A special discount sale will also be held in all Purificacion Orchids outlets at SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa and SM Manila (behind City Hall); SM Fairview; and SM Megamall.

gapore. You notice this as you people-watch. A business-like handshake is so not like us.

Thursday night, our eyes wandered around Kai restaurant and caught once more so many all-girls' tables. Pretty young things so nicely dressed for the night, but going, as they say, "stag." I've been noticing this for some time now—in restos, even bars.

Metro Manila's night scene teems with unescorted or "dateless" babes who seem to be having as much fun by themselves, as they would with guys. Got nothing to do with SARS, of course. It's just that "date-able" guys are scarce.

The guy-girl ratio seems to be not only a lopsided figure, but is standing on one leg.

Kai has taken Japanese cuisine several notches higher. Try its salad foie gras, beef cooked on a stone (as Ricco Ocampo and I enjoyed cooking Manila's personae, figuratively), oyster appetizer, duck and pork entrees. We love its tofu cheesecake.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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